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VOICE

DORDT COLLEGE

WINTER 2000
VOLUME 45 NUMBER 2

“

These students
distinguish themselves
in their commitment,
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and their ability.
They do Dordt
College proud.

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Costumer Shirley
Matheis's retirement is
marked by costume
parade.



Senior Jesse Groen, Brad Altena ('98), Chris Rylaarsdam ('99), and Anchor Bob Grotenhuis ('81) make up the core of Sioux City's KMEG evening news crew.

Dordt alums staff local TV station

Sally Jongsma

Listeners to Dordt College Radio, KDCR, may have noticed that the familiar deep voice of Director Dennis De Waard now introduces the evening newscasts on Sioux City's KMEG (Channel 14) television station. But De Waard's voice is only a small part of the Dordt presence at KMEG. The most visible alum is evening news anchor Bob Grotenhuis ('81). Working with him behind the scenes are Brad Altena ('98), evening news senior director; Chris Rylaarsdam ('99), master controller; and current senior Jesse Groen, cameraman and tape editor. Some evenings the station is staffed by a largely Dordt crew.

Grotenhuis, who is evening anchor and managing editor of the station, is thrilled to be working with the younger grads. "These students distinguish themselves in their commitment, their work ethic, and their ability," he says. "They do Dordt College proud."

Like Grotenhuis, some of these alums got their on-air start at KDCR, but they came with some camera and television experience that was not available when Grotenhuis attended. Altena says he gained a great deal of experience by directing the taping of plays and special events at Dordt. But he says his most valuable experience came from participating in a program sponsored by the Council

of Christian Colleges and Universities and Asbury College, putting him on a media team at the Atlanta Olympics. Groen also speaks appreciatively of his two years working at KDCR.

"KDCR is a valuable resource for students interested in broadcasting," he says. He currently directs campus tapings of plays and other activities. Both he and Altena took advantage of opportunities to get involved on campus and acquired the experience to get themselves jobs in their field.

Grotenhuis hopes Dordt continues to develop its television emphasis, so that more Christians will be prepared for positions in the field of television. He wishes he had been able to have more training in television during college, but he says that his years at KDCR were excellent preparation for his future as a newscaster.

"I knew since sixth grade what I wanted to do," he says. A "faculty kid during Dordt's earlier years," he recalls the day KDCR went on the air and remembers hanging around the station whenever he could. As a junior in high school he finally asked for a job. Martin Dekkenga hired him to read the news three mornings a week before he left for high school. While a student at Dordt, KDCR became an even more important part of his life. He took five years to complete his degree so that he could take four instead of

five courses a semester and spend more time working at the station.

"Dordt provided me with the happiest five years of my life," he says.

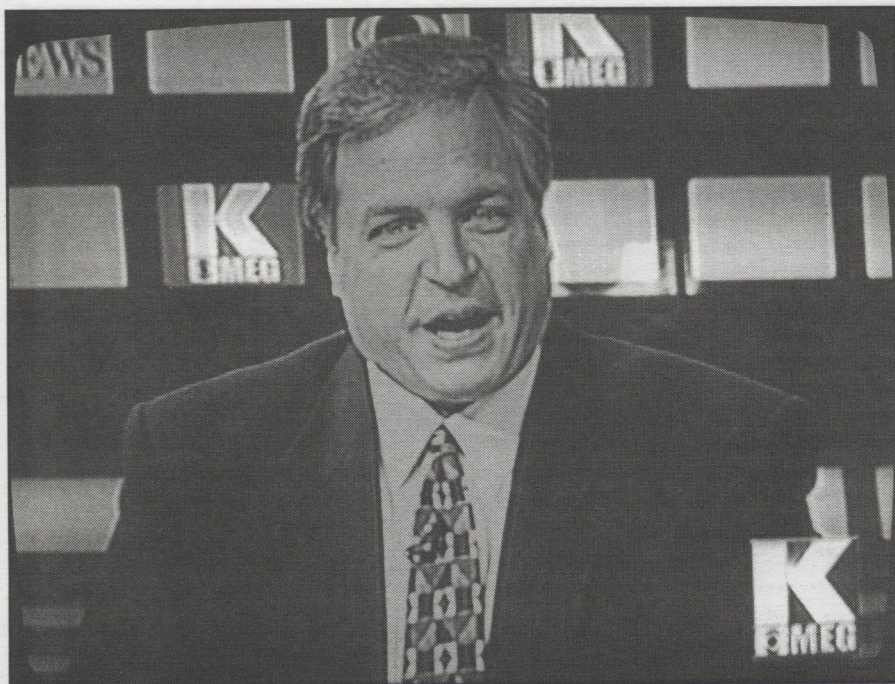
That is not to say the others have been unhappy. Since graduation Grotenhuis has worked as a news anchor: three years in Sioux City; three in Austin, Texas; seven in Boise, Idaho; and five in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He came back to Sioux City earlier this year.

Although KMEG has been broadcasting to Iowa, South Dakota, and Nebraska for years, it did not have its own news department until recently. Grotenhuis was hired to build and head the department. Under its new owner, the station has not only added a news staff, but is growing and improving, creating openings for recent grads like Altena and Rylaarsdam. Groen will be the station's first intern next semester.

"I originally wanted to be a reporter," Groen says. And he still thinks he does, but he's also come to enjoy the technical side of broadcasting. He hopes that his internship next semester, which will expose him to reporting and broadcast technology, will also give him a better base for making a career decision.

Being part of a growing station is exciting. Altena says it's just plain fun doing the work he does. The thirty minutes of the newscast

continued on page two



Bob Grotenhuis recently returned to Sioux City, where he began his broadcasting career.

“

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view of a sovereign
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”

Grotenhuis anchors news department

Continued from page one

can get a little stressful at times, especially if a live shot didn't get tuned properly or if breaking news interrupts the regular flow. But that's also what makes it exciting. Grotenhuis, who's been at it a little longer, says he enjoys his work as much now as he did when he began—especially planning the newscast and writing the stories.

“Being on the air is the most lucrative part of broadcasting, but I could be happy just

planning and writing the newscasts,” he says. He works closely with KMEG's assignment editor, often suggesting stories he thinks would be good to run. He has the final say over what gets aired and what doesn't. He admits that his partiality to Sioux County and Dordt College sometimes come through, but feels it is justified when there are good things going on that deserve to be covered. This fall he sent a camera crew to get clips of a Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra concert with a Latin theme at Dordt that was planned to appeal to Hispanics in the area and in which Miss Iowa was the guest principal cellist. He was happy to be able to showcase the college and the orchestra while providing a worthwhile story for viewers.

“There are certain things you simply must cover,” he says, and many of them deal with death, destruction, or depravity. But there is always a certain amount of discretionary time that can be filled with positive stories. He likes to include stories that focus on justice issues, stories that show something about the society in which we live. He also likes to promote what community organizations and churches are doing for their communities and the world.

“The trouble is that people and especially churches aren't used to telling us what they are doing, so we often don't hear about the good things until after they are over,” he says. He encourages listeners to change that by letting them know what they're doing.

Determining what is a good story is admittedly a judgment call, Grotenhuis says, adding, “Reporting is not a perfect science.” In fact, often it is intuitive. “Ninety-nine percent of the time a good story leaps out at me.” In one day he may have eighteen possible stories to choose from. He cannot send

reporters to cover each of those assignments, so he has to choose what is most important. But he is committed to being as unbiased as possible and presenting the truth as best he can. That means showing all sides of the issue and giving the facts as well as they can be determined.

Grotenhuis also feels that an effectively told story often includes a sense of conflict. Since his medium is television, he says he must also take into account which stories will give good pictures. “Television tells emotional stories better than radio,” he says. And, because of its impact, it also has the responsibility to tell the truth not just in words but also on tape.

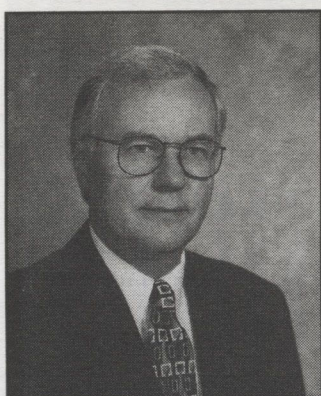
Whether it's planning, writing, announcing, or mentoring, Grotenhuis says, he enjoys everything about his job—except the miserable make-up he must put on before each newscast. “This is the realization of a life-long dream,” he says. And he continues to appreciate Dordt College for the foundation it gave him and the young grads who work with him.

Groen believes that the education he is getting is preparing him for all of life, not just the career he hopes to have in broadcasting. “Focusing on just the technical isn't enough. You have to understand why things are the way they are,” he says, “if you want to really serve in your life and in your work.”

“The reformational view of a sovereign God upholding his creation helps me make sense of the world,” Grotenhuis says.

He appreciates the whole family of the KMEG news department, but he enjoys the opportunity to work with others who share the same commitment and background as he does—even if they all have to take a little ribbing once in a while for their occasional biases.

From the president



Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

“

*The reason we have
a specific language
in the first place is
that our language
expresses a different
set of beliefs.*

”

A vocabulary of Christian scholarship

Several years ago in South Dakota, I heard a poet state that “religious language is a dead language.” That observation by writer Kathleen Norris provides the foil for her recent New York Times Notable Book of the Year called *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*.

In this book Norris describes her own journey to the Christian faith. As part of that journey she would on occasion participate in Christian gatherings. At those times, Norris observes, she would “run into barriers, words that seemed like mental roadblocks.” The whole world of Christian language struck this New England-educated, New York writer as totally mysterious, marking out a world of which she clearly was not really a part.

And I suppose we wouldn't blame Norris for really complaining about all that Christian jargon that seemed to obscure the world of faith from interested inquirers such as she. After all, if the Christian faith is to be spread to those outside its current adherents, then surely the language must be understood by those from the world of unbelief. Or so we might think.

But not according to Norris. Perhaps she was unusually kindhearted, but Kathleen Norris writes, “I did not begrudge the Christians their language and did not feel that they owed it to me to jettison the vocabulary of their great tradition to accommodate my hang-ups and frustrations.” Quite the contrary. Norris observes that as she made her way to embracing the Christian faith, “I have had to develop a relationship with . . . scary Christian vocabulary. In living with these

words, I have found that they have come to life, and have forced me to shed the inadequate definitions that I had received. . . .”

In other words, had the Christian community abandoned Christian vocabulary, Norris observes, she never would have come to faith and never would have gained the salvation that the Christian religion expresses. According to Norris, learning the vocabulary of faith is part of becoming a Christian. (And so her book consists of her own meditations on such traditional terms as “eschatology,” “Antichrist,” “silence,” and “salvation,” to name her first four.)

Essentially, I think Norris is right. And that's why I'm so frustrated when I run into the suggestion that Reformed Christian higher education needs to abandon its terminology in order to convince others to accept its principles. Norris warns—and I would concur—that “any language can become a code . . . a jargon that speaks only to the converted.” Yet it remains quite a mystery to me just how the biblical principles embodied in a Reformed understanding of education are going to be communicated without the words in which those concepts live.

Personally, I'm glad medical schools haven't accepted the idea that precise and well-defined traditional terminology is simple jargon that can be jettisoned in the training of new physicians. At least, when I needed surgery during my college years I took comfort in the fact that the radiologist, general practice physician, and surgeon could all agree on a common definition of the word “appendix.”

I know that sometimes we feel a little embarrassed about traditional language such as creation, fall, redemption, renewal, consummation, covenant, kingdom, creational norms, and all the rest. There are too many skeptics around who will insist we are creating a sub-community that is unable to speak meaningfully in the public arena of academic discourse. But if we let our insecurities get the best of us and abandon our language, I'm wondering what we are going to say that will provide a unique biblical contribution to the world of scholarship and learning. The reason we have a specific language in the first place is that our language expresses a different set of beliefs. It would be a shame to abandon those beliefs simply to be more understandable.

Even worse, should a Reformed Christian institution such as Dordt College ever abandon its language of biblically based scholarship, who knows how many future generations of Christian youth and how many still unconvinced skeptics (such as Kathleen Norris was) will never have the chance to enter the world of biblically formed understanding. As Norris says, “language used truly, not mere talk, neither propaganda, nor chatter has real power. Its words are allowed to be themselves, to bless or curse, wound or heal.”

What a grand description of the call of Christian scholarship—to use the language of faith-formed understanding to bless, curse, wound, and heal a world in which the language of sin-blinded misunderstanding far too often holds sway.

*All quotations taken from pages 1-9 of *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* by Kathleen Norris, published in 1998 by Riverhead Books, New York.

Senior puts her art to work

Children in a small South Dakota town benefit

Sally Jongsma

Kari Niewenhuis decided she wanted to use her art major this past year. Last summer, with only a part-time job for a local printer in place, Niewenhuis needed to earn more money for her tuition this year. She decided to offer art classes to children in her hometown of Platte, South Dakota.

"I hoped to get about fifty students, but really expected only about twenty," she says with a smile. "My mom told me not to set my sights so high that I'd be disappointed," she recalls. She ended up with 110 students, from five-year-olds to eleventh graders.

"It was really kind of scary," she says. "I had no idea what kind of response to expect." Even though she was excited about the project, she readily admits that part of her motivation was that, even though she was studying to be an art teacher, she didn't feel confident about her career goal. This was an opportunity to try it out.

"I also wanted to see what a second grader could do," she says. Because she never took art classes until she got to high school, she didn't have an intuitive sense of what children could do at different ages.

The project was a huge success for both Niewenhuis and her students. From a town of 1500 people, seventy-seven children enrolled. In neighboring New Holland, another thirty-five signed up. She earned money toward her tuition, but more importantly, she says, she learned so much about teaching art.

The project didn't just happen, though. It took planning and initiative. Late in the spring, before the local schools got out, Niewenhuis brought a registration sheet around for children to take home. Her father gave her the use of a fairly new and bright garage at home and her grandparents offered their basement for a class in New Holland. Her mother helped her with finances and get-

ting things organized. She borrowed tables from the local Christian school. She planned her curriculum and purchased a packet of supplies for each student—a set of oil pastels, three art pencils, a large drawing pad, and two erasers.

"They loved having their own materials," she said. "Especially the oil pastels. It wasn't something they had used before, and they loved the vivid colors."

Each class of seven to ten students met an hour a week for six sessions. Niewenhuis ran classes from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in Platte and Wednesday in New Holland. Each student paid thirty dollars for the six sessions.

"I wanted this to be something really fun for them," she says. So she set up two rules at the start: nobody raises their hand to talk and everyone has fun. The children were rather quiet at first, she says, but after a couple of weeks they were talking and humming or singing along with the classical music she always played.

"At first they argued that they wanted popular music, but I wanted to establish a good working atmosphere. They came to enjoy the music and even sing with it."

The kids' response was very positive. One boy sent her flowers at the end of the sessions, with a gift card signed in his elementary-school script. She keeps it taped in her notebook of lessons plans and photos of the summer. Another young man, a high school student, asked her at the end of the six classes if he could come to the make-up session she offered for those who had to miss one of the regular classes—even though he hadn't missed a class.

Niewenhuis beams as she talks about the summer. "I almost felt like I shouldn't be charging them for it, because I had so much fun and learned so much," she says. "I really feel like an art teacher now."

Interestingly, after the overwhelming response from children, she was asked to offer a class in painting toward the end of the summer. Although the earlier sessions had built her confidence, this was a little more intimidating since one of the classes was all adults.

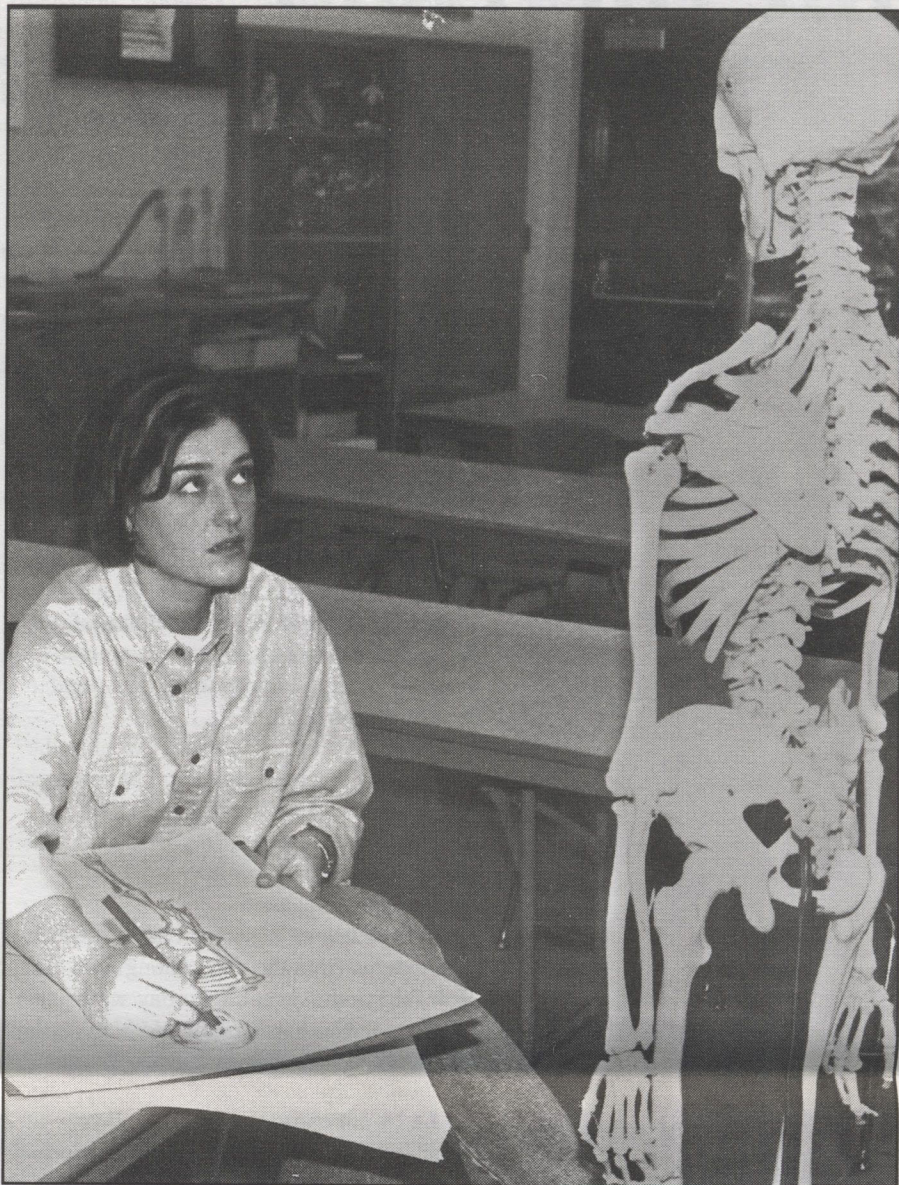
"It went well, though," she says with a sense of satisfaction. "I loved seeing all levels of students begin to realize what they could do."

Niewenhuis's eagerness to learn all she can to be a good art teacher hasn't stopped with her return to school. This fall she agreed to volunteer to work with a support group for grieving children. She used her art a bit, but mainly wanted experience in working and dealing with children who had lost a parent.

And her latest idea is to offer art classes for children who are home schooled.

"I've had parents tell me that art is one area where they do not feel qualified to teach their own children. Maybe I can help them out."

And she's getting ready for more art classes next summer. She's scheduled her upcoming wedding



Kari Niewenhuis found a way to better prepare herself for teaching and to serve the children in her community.

for later in the summer so she can offer five sessions first, and she's using what she's learning in a graphics design class to put out a more professional-looking brochure to describe her summer program.

"I've had a lot of support from my art professors as well as the Platte public school art teacher. It's been wonderful. It's amazing what you can do when people believe in you," she adds. And it's been an answer to prayer. She wanted to do something with art and to learn to be a good teacher. Doors have opened, and she is doing just that.

“

I really feel like an art teacher now.

”

Web site earns second award

Cheryl Wierda

For the second year in a row, Dordt's web site has earned a bronze award from District VI of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. District VI includes eight states and 250 institutions, all of whom are eligible for the annual competition.

Dordt's new admissions web site, designed by junior Jeremy Jongsma, was entered into the contest. "This is really remarkable, to win two years in a row with a student-designed site," says director of public relations Jim De Young. "Jeremy is competing with full-time professionals at some big universities."

The gold was awarded to two schools: Kansas State and Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. The silver went to Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri.

This year only a small part of Dordt's web presence, the site for admissions, was entered into the competition. The admissions web site was changed this year because "We wanted to give a fresh look to admissions as it is the highest traffic site in terms of off-campus access," says De Young. The rest of Dordt's web site has remained similar to last year's site.

Jongsma also designed last year's award-winning site.



Niewenhuis's students ranged from five-year-olds to high schoolers.

English classes hit the road

Cheryl Wierda

“

It gave me a glimpse
of how an author's
life and experiences
intertwine themselves
in the pages of
her writing.

”

Michelle Wynia ('96) considers her trip to author Willa Cather's hometown in Red Cloud, Nebraska, one of her "top two" experiences at Dordt. The other was a trip to Minneapolis to see *As You Like It* with members of another English class, Shakespeare and Elizabethan Drama.

In recent years, several English courses have included trips to increase students' understanding of the literature they are studying. Literature came alive last semester for students in the American Novel and Shakespeare classes. By experiencing the life or works of an author, students learned to better understand those authors and their works.

Junior Jessica Hordyk, a member of last fall's Shakespeare class, says she recommends that trips such as these be a regular part of the curriculum.

Last fall's Shakespeare class went to the American Players Theatre, an outdoor theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin, and took in two Shakespeare plays. In previous years, students from the class have traveled to theaters in Minneapolis.

On their trip to Wisconsin in September, six students from the class, along with Dr. Bob De Smith, spent a Saturday watching a matinee of *Much Ado about Nothing*, a play they studied in the class, and an evening performance of *Pericles*.

De Smith chose to see these plays because he was confident it would help the students in his class connect with the plays and help them see that it was not just an academic subject.

"It's always good to see [Shakespeare's works] as plays, to see what the actor brings to the play," says De Smith. "More importantly, it gives students the chance to take the play from being a subject of study to being a part of their lives."

It was a quick, one-day trip, but students found it helpful. "Watching the plays made them really come to life," says senior Stephanie Hofland. "If we had just read it, it would have fallen flat. By watching it, it was easier to make the connections."

Hordyk agrees, saying, "Seeing a performance of any Shakespeare play would help anybody understand them. We studied *Much Ado about Nothing* in class and it made a lot more sense watching it on stage."

While the Shakespeare trip primarily helped students understand specific plays, the trip to author Willa Cather's hometown helped students get a glimpse into the author's life and the setting of her work. Students in the American Novel course, taught by Dr. James Schaap, have traveled to Red Cloud, Nebraska, several times over the last ten years, seeing buildings and sites that were a part of Cather's life.

Schaap decided to include this component of the class "on a whim," he says. "I'd never been there, and it looked like it could be a lot of fun." Schaap knew that Cather had lived somewhere close to Sioux Center, and thus



Members of this year's class enjoyed Cather's native prairie on an unseasonably warm fall day.

the idea was plausible.

"From the first, it has been a success," he says. His students couldn't agree more. Senior Brian Wisselink, who went this fall, says, "I gained a richer sense of what [Cather is] writing about."

Amy (Vanden Hoek) Vande Voort ('96), who took the course in the fall of 1995 says, "It gave me a glimpse of how an author's life and experiences intertwine themselves in the pages of her writing."

Schaap finds the trip fun because little has changed in Red Cloud since Cather lived there 100 years ago.

"It authenticates the novel," says Schaap. Students saw Cather's home, the church she attended, the Catholic church she wrote about in *My Antonia*—which the students studied in the class—the courthouse, the railway station, the site of her homestead, and a prairie preserve.

Schaap finds the prairie preserve an inter-

esting place to visit, since unadulterated prairie is rare today. "It is interesting to see an actual prairie because it is used so often by prairie writers," he says. "The sea of grass is what every prairie writer talks about." Students walked on this prairie, giving them a feeling for the scenery Cather described.

Schaap's students, past and present, learned not only more about Cather herself, but about how environment affects writing. "I learned that an author's life greatly impacts his or her writing," says Wynia. "I knew that before, but I truly began to understand how real that influence was by visiting Cather's home."

Wisselink found encouragement for his writing by visiting Cather's home. "Literature can come from anywhere," he says. "It is inspiring. You don't have to live in New York or Los Angeles to be a writer. Stories are anywhere."

Campus capsules

New scholarships announced

The office of scholarships and grants announced seven new scholarships to be awarded for the first time this spring. Two new endowed awards are the Nick Verbrugge International Student Scholarship and the Ralph and Cornelia Gritters Business Scholarship. The Verbrugge scholarship of \$1000 will go to an international student in good academic standing. Students from any class are eligible. The Gritters scholarship will go to an upperclass student majoring in business administration with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0. Beginning at \$900 next year, the award will increase over the next couple of years as interest on the endowment grows.

Five new annually funded scholarships will also be awarded this spring. The \$1000 Smith Business Information Systems Scholarship will go to an upperclass student in business administration with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0. The \$1000 Hollander Consulting, Inc. Information Technology Scholarships will be awarded to two upperclass students in computer science with a G.P.A. of at least 2.8. The Hilda Ozinga Art Scholarship will be given to an incoming freshman art major with a G.P.A. of 3.0. This \$500 award is renewable for four years. The Alice De Graaf Memorial Scholarship of \$1000 will be given to a California resident who demonstrates financial need. And the Bloemendaal Organ Scholarship will be awarded to a student, not necessarily a music major, who plans to make a contribution to the community and the church through the organ. Applicants must

have a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5 to be eligible for the \$300 award and must take organ lessons.

Pysch majors get published

Two senior psychology majors have recently had their work published in an on-line undergraduate journal. The paper, written by Stephanie Hofland and Rebekah Dieter, was a component of the Experimental Psychology course they took last spring.

Dr. Sherri Lantinga, instructor of the course, says that this is the first time in recent history that a paper by a Dordt psychology student has been published. "This says very good things about [Dieter and Hofland's] abilities," says Lantinga. "It will also help make their graduate school applications stronger."

The paper, titled "Lemon Smell as a Memory Trigger," was published this past summer in *Psych-E*.

Placement remains high

Dordt's placement office released its annual report recently, recording an overall placement rate of 98.3 percent for 1999 graduates. The number is within a few tenths of that of each of the last five years. According to the report, only two graduates are still looking for employment. Fifteen are attending graduate school, four are in seminary, and two are in internships.

One figure that has increased a bit this year from last year is the number of graduates who



Willa Cather's *My Antonia* ends with a glorious maternal vision, when Antonia Cuzak's dozen children suddenly emerge from a farmyard cellar. Ann Pavelka, the prototype Cather used for the novel, lived on this homestead, where Cather visited Mrs. Pavelka, and where the 1995 American Novel class gathers, celebratively, round the cellar doors.

Bread for the World chapter holds fast

Cheryl Wierda

Eighteen million children around the world suffer from malnutrition. A Dordt College student chapter of Bread for the World, an international advocacy group, is trying to make a difference in the lives of these children.

Last month, to raise awareness about hunger, Dordt's Bread for the World club held a fast. According to sophomore co-leader Nick Davelaar, the fast not only helped those who participated learn more about hunger and become more thankful for what they already have, it also raised money for various organizations. The club sent more than \$600 to the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Bread for the World, and the Sioux Falls Banquet, a homeless shelter and soup kitchen located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Davelaar says that at Dordt the key issue was raising awareness of the plight of hungry children. "We are concentrating on changing views. We'll not be changing overnight, but we need to change our attitudes," he says. "Hopefully, it will help people not take things for granted and help out more."

Sophomore Rebecca Schelhaas, the other student leader of the club, agrees. "I hope people will become more aware, more concerned, and more active if they have the way [to respond]."

Davelaar and Schelhaas are eager to learn more about world hunger and help others become more informed. Davelaar first became involved in the club because of his interest in international justice.

"We can't just say something has to be changed. We have to do something," says Davelaar. He also likes the sense of

community that grows among those who participate in such activities.

Schelhaas finds that what she has learned by being involved in the club is very personal. "It helps me become more aware of things going on in the world," she says. In the past, she would block out the issue of hunger when it was covered on television, because she knew she was okay. Now, she's become much more sensitive to concerns about world hunger. "It is such a big issue," she says, adding that many people don't have the opportunity to decide whether they want to get involved.

More than 150 students took advantage of that opportunity last month through the fast. One hundred and twenty-five of those who fasted normally eat in the Commons. In support of the event, Carrie Foods, the company that runs the Commons, agreed to donate \$5 for each person who skipped their meals, to a maximum of \$500. The additional \$100 was raised through other donations.

Fast organizers were encouraged by the amount of involvement, especially since the number of people regularly involved in the club is low. "It was great to see who showed up for the hunger fast and wanted to get involved," says Davelaar.

Although the fast is the most visible activity of the club this year, the group also plans to serve a meal at the Sioux Falls Banquet in January, to attend a convention in Minnesota later this year, and to sponsor letter-writing campaigns to elected representatives.

"That's what Bread for the World really focuses on," says Davelaar about the letter writing campaigns. He and Schelhaas hope that Dordt students will be as supportive of that effort, too.

are employed out of their major. According to Jo Faber, Dordt's placement coordinator, this is not because of lack of positions in their area. Comments received from students indicate that some are no longer interested in the field they studied, some aren't sure what they want to do, and some are working for a year or two to pay off college debts before going on to graduate school.

Social Work hosts assessment conference

On October 15, Dordt's social work department hosted a conference on assessing social work field experience. The conference provided an opportunity for the social work departments of five area colleges with B.S.W. programs to meet with the supervisors of agencies that work with their student interns. The other schools were Augustana from Sioux Falls, Briar Cliff from Sioux City, Buena Vista from Storm Lake, and Northwestern from Orange City.

"We are all required to provide ongoing education for field supervisors by the accrediting agency," says Professor Shirley Jezowski. So last year she approached Briar Cliff with the idea of collaborating on a conference that would help each program meet this need. This year was the second of what they hope will be an annual conference addressing such issues as the role of field placement and supervisors; relationships between schools, agencies, and

students; and how to evaluate a student's internship experience.

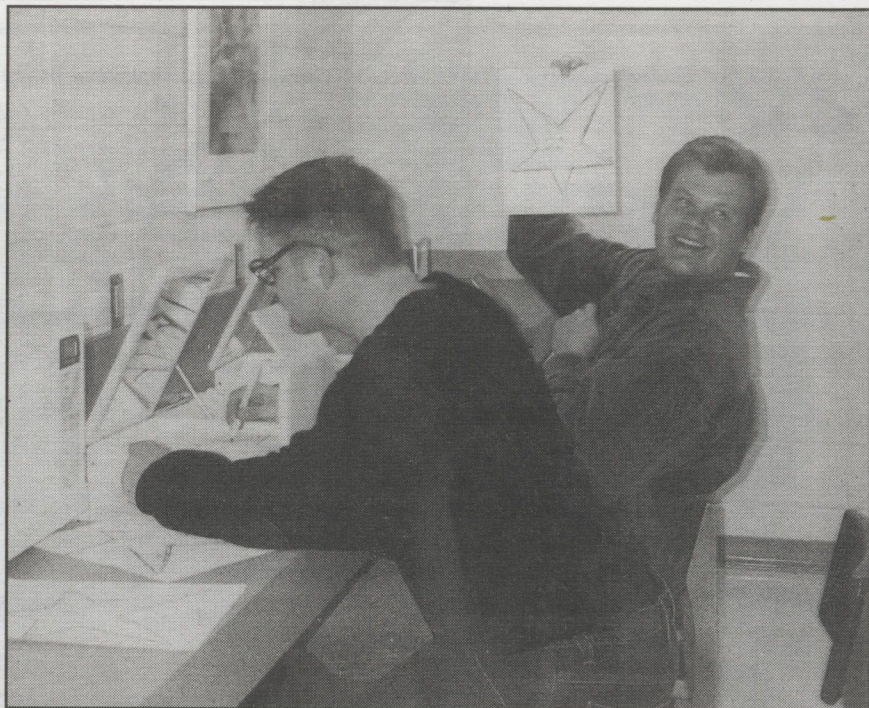
"The agencies liked the idea of collaborating on this," says Jezowski. Too often academic institutions are seen as protecting their turf instead of working together. And many of the agencies involved serve all of the schools. The schools like it, too. It not only allows them to streamline a process but also gives them more contact with their colleagues in social work.

Dorhout earns Iowa College Foundation scholarship

Dordt College freshman Justin Dorhout was recently awarded a First Generation Scholarship provided by the Coca-Cola Foundation through the Iowa College Foundation.

The Coca-Cola Foundation offers an annual, renewable scholarship of \$5000 to one student from each of the twenty-five colleges and universities who are members of the Iowa College Foundation. The scholarships are awarded to students who are the first in their immediate families to seek a college education.

Dorhout was unable to attend the award ceremony in Des Moines on October 12, but was presented his award personally by Dordt's president, Dr. Carl E. Zylstra, and by Dennis W. Linderbaum, president of the Iowa College Foundation. Dorhout plans to study mechanical engineering and philosophy.



Psych club makes its debut

Cheryl Wierda

The idea for one of Dordt's newest clubs came to junior Billie Draper when she was on a "psychology tour" in San Francisco, California, last summer. Draper was participating in a summer program sponsored by Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia. The program gave Draper the opportunity to meet prominent psychologists, visit various schools, and grapple with issues in psychology, such as how to integrate faith with psychology. While on the program, she saw a need for Dordt psychology students to get involved in this and other issues at the undergraduate level.

At Stanford University, the school with the top-rated psychology program in the country according to the Gourman Report, Draper learned that many psychology graduate school programs consider a student's involvement in an undergraduate psychology club an important element for admission into the program.

Draper decided to help get one started at Dordt. The Psychology Club was formed this fall to benefit those applying to graduate schools and to foster camaraderie among students within the major. The club plans psychology-related events such as forums, guest speakers, and assistance with graduate school preparation. They also publish a newsletter.

Draper, who is president of the group, has been encouraged by campus response to the club. "Overall, this club has been a success because faculty and students have responded so strongly," she says. "The professors continually provide us with information, give us feedback on our club's events, and propose new ideas for our club's activities." The professors attend the club's activities and suggest contact people for club events.

Draper says it has been a privilege to get to know other majors on a more personal basis through club activities. "Most activities are proposed by students, not us [the council]. It is really a collective effort," says Draper.

The club's first activity occurred at the end of October with a discussion about brain damage. Participants engaged in simulated activities—such as using binoculars to walk on a balance beam, and using a mirror to trace a star—to try to understand what it is like to live with brain damage.

The club is planning more activities, such as psychology-related movie nights, and a discussion in January with several Dordt psychology grads. "Next semester we plan to be even more visible," says Draper.

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Many psychology graduate school programs consider a student's involvement in an undergraduate psychology club an important element for admission into the program.

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You don't really understand some of the concepts you've learned until you see them put into practice.

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Some Dordt students worked on the Kaizen team assigned to improve the production process for the machine shown behind students Jason Van Hal and Joel Van Soelen and manager Mark Zylstra ('96).

Business students get hands-on exposure to Kaizen

Ten students from Hoekstra's class couldn't miss the entire week of classes. For them Hoekstra set up a one-day Kaizen simulation with Dennis Van Zanten ('81), a vice president at Pella Corporation. Although they didn't get the same depth of exposure as the students on the Vermeer teams, they benefitted greatly from the experience, too, says Hoekstra. He's appreciative of the effort both companies made to accommodate and teach his students about Kaizen.

Sally Jongsma

Business Professor Erik Hoekstra likes to make what he's teaching concrete. So in early October, fourteen students from his Production and Operations Management class went to Pella, Iowa, to participate on Kaizen teams at Vermeer Manufacturing.

Hoekstra's students were learning about Kaizen (Japanese for continuous improvement), a strategy for carrying out quality and cost improvements in a business. Instead of being based on the principle more is better—no matter what the cost, it encourages companies to find better ways to set up their business that will benefit both the company and the workers.

Teams of employees, made up of a cross-section of those involved in a particular operation—including engineers, supervisors, and production workers—spend a week away from their normal work studying a manufacturing process to see how it might be improved. Two or three Dordt students teamed up with eight to ten Vermeer employees to improve a specific production process at the plant. Two of the groups were even mentored by a Japanese continuous improvement consultant who helped Toyota set up its production system.

"I learned more from the actual hands-on experience than a lot of textbooks could have taught me," said one student. "You don't really understand some of the concepts you've learned until you see them put into practice."

Initially, bringing Dordt students in for the Kaizen events was arranged at Hoekstra's request to help students better understand the process. "However, we received some good feedback from the students that we will use to improve our process," says Mark Zylstra ('96), manager of continuous improvement at Vermeer. And Vermeer is also interested in helping Dordt graduates learn more about the company and the various career options they offer.

Hoekstra doesn't just teach his students about Kaizen because it's trendy or because it works, but because he believes it is a respon-

sible way for Christians to do business.

"It pulls everyone involved into the process, and it engages their hands, hearts, minds, and spirits," he says, adding, "Efficiency and stewardship are important elements of running a business, as are using people's gifts."

And Hoekstra didn't choose Vermeer just because it's a successful business. He arranged for students to be involved there because of the kind of business it is. Vermeer's mission statement lists four Ps: profit, people, principles, and products. Profits are normative for businesses, but profit must not be pursued at the expense of the people who work there, the principles upon which the company is based, or the quality of their products, Hoekstra says. He appreciates having his students learn in such an environment.

To participate in the Kaizen events, business students had to take a week away from their classes, requiring them to work ahead or make up missed work when they returned. They began the week with a Monday training session on Kaizen principles, and by late that day were busy setting goals for the week and assigning responsibilities. By Friday, students presented the changes, the immediate impact of those changes, and the long-term expected benefits to a group of Vermeer senior managers.

"These kids were wonderful," said one Vermeer team leader.

Reflecting on the experience, Hoekstra says it was valuable time spent by the students. It helped at least one person look more seriously at manufacturing management as a possible career, and it helped motivate students to get back to the books. He noted that being in the workplace helped them see how to apply what they learned and realize that what they learn in class truly is valuable.

Hoekstra believes that Kaizen principles can be applied in other business settings and even in many life situations, helping people evaluate whether the way they work is effective and efficient. A college might use Kaizen in its admissions procedures or committee work processes to make them better

serve the potential student or the college community. In a home setting, family members might use Kaizen principles to assist in analyzing how they do certain tasks and in creatively thinking about how to do them more efficiently.

"I'm not suggesting that we make life so mechanistic and organized that it takes over our lives," he says. "But pausing to look reflectively at our lives and make changes to our work processes could free us to live the way we believe we should," he adds.

"We're to be reformingly busy, right?" he asks rhetorically. "Stepping back can help us be more creative and responsible."

Students seemed to agree that the week was worthwhile, although they would like to have had more prior knowledge about the company and their assigned work area. Hoekstra believes this can be improved on for next time. "After all," he says, "professors should Kaizen themselves as well!"

On the whole, however, students learned a great deal and came to see the value in both the Kaizen approach and the importance of communication and involvement in manufacturing processes.

"I was amazed at how much can be accomplished when individuals are put into teams and given certain goals," wrote one student in her response to the week.

"I can see how Kaizen could have a dramatic impact on a company and its ability to serve its customers, both internal and external. I felt that the keys to Kaizen were observation and good communication," said another.

Another concluded, "I began the week knowing the right words, but by the end of the week, I felt more equipped to use the knowledge I have learned throughout the past four years at Dordt."

"We would definitely do this again," says Zylstra. Before that happens, though, he too hopes to spend more time preparing students, giving them information about the issues being addressed and about their roles as team members. "I would say it was a big success and the Vermeer/Dordt Kaizen experience was beneficial to both."

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By the end of the week, I felt more equipped to use what I have learned throughout the past four years at Dordt.

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Business dept. effort helps Third World businesses

Sally Jongsma

On June 1 and 2 Dordt's business department will host and co-sponsor the fourth annual conference of Partners for Christian Development, an economic development organization. Business professor Erik Hoekstra, who is doing much of the planning for the two-day event, says the goal of Partners is to link North American business people with Third World businesses, helping them create desperately needed jobs.

A country like Kenya, for example, with forty to fifty percent unemployment, is benefitting from working with Partners. Hoekstra cites an example of a Kenyan metalcraft factory owner who, on a Partners-sponsored visit to North America, saw an abandoned piece of welding equipment. He noted that such a piece of equipment would allow him to hire several more people in his community. Partners paid the shipping costs to get it to Kenya.

The goal for the conference is two-fold: to expose Dordt-connected business people and alumni to the Partners organization and to provide an opportunity for Christian business people to reflect on and celebrate what it means to be a Christian in business. In the process Dordt is able to provide a valuable educational service to its supporting community.

"We want to celebrate that God calls us to be involved in business, but also look reflectively and critically at what we are doing," says Hoekstra. The conference will give opportunity for participants to share ideas about their work here and find ways to become involved with businesses in developing countries.

The relationships that Partners hopes to develop aren't only financial, says Hoekstra, adding, "This is not an attempt to throw money at a problem to solve it." Instead, members of the Partners organization get involved personally. Sometimes this does

mean putting money into a business, but more likely it means sharing expertise and advice. Partners often have regular contact with a business person abroad who may need specific assistance. As a sister organization of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), Partners relies on CRWRC to identify businesses with development potential. It then looks for someone in its membership network with the right kind of expertise to assist that business. As its membership increases, the group hopes to build a database of thousands of business people.

"From this conference, for example, I hope our list could grow to include a person who purchases metal in Rock Valley, Iowa, who might be willing personally or by phone consultation to help someone in a similar business in the developing world," says Hoekstra.

Partners is not trying to turn these small businesses into North American businesses, but rather help create jobs in order to increase the economic base of poor countries. The Partners organization has found that marketing expertise is often very helpful. An example is a Haitian honey producer who has increased his sales, jobs, and profits by working with both Haitian and North American Partners, allowing him to package, distribute, and market his honey more effectively.

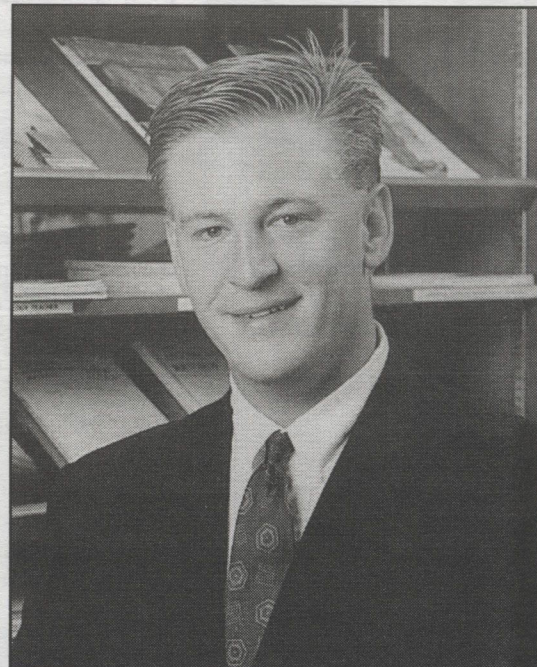
Hoekstra sees the work of Partners as a model for his students, too. In fact, Linda Dykstra, a senior from Clinton, Ontario, plans to spend second semester in Haiti working with the local chapter of Partners there. With the help of a Vermeer Foundation grant that supports international business learning opportunities for Dordt students, Dykstra will help establish the chapter more firmly as well as coordinate discovery tours for business people interested in getting involved with Partners. She also plans to help the local Partners field staff member teach a business ethics class in a Christian high school. Since many wealthy Haitians send

their children to this school, teaching these students how a civil society can benefit everyone could have a significant impact on the country. And to better understand how a small business operates, Dykstra will work in a local pasta factory run by a Haitian woman.

In addition to the general business focus, Hoekstra hopes to emphasize two additional themes at this year's conference. He would like to draw people in agriculture, believing that it is much better to help poor people learn how to raise, process, and market their own food rather than ship it in from outside these communities. Since many of Partners' projects in the developing world have an agricultural focus, the organization hopes to increase the number of agriculture and agri-business experts in their member network.

Hoekstra would also like to focus on pastors. "Sometimes business people feel like second-class citizens," he says. "They need to be supported in their calling as business people and called to account for the responsibilities of that calling. Too often pastors are ill-equipped to understand the particular needs of the business person." Hoekstra hopes that business people will invite their pastors to the conference to open up avenues of communication between them. Several workshops are planned on both agricultural and pastoral topics.

"It's amazing how many connections you can make when a bunch of people committed to filling a need come together," Hoekstra says. He hopes many attend and become a partner.



"Dordt alumni and friends of Dordt business, accounting, engineering, computer science, and agriculture are all welcome to attend and will find something at the conference to interest them," says Prof. Erik Hoekstra.

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This is not an attempt to throw

money at a problem to solve it.

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Working with our government

A look at the status of four issues students study in the business senior seminar

Plumblines are commentaries broadcast on Dordt's radio station, KDCR. By reprinting some of them, we hope to stimulate thinking about issues we face as Christians living in 2000.

John Visser

For many of the twenty years I have been teaching at Dordt College, students in the business and economics department's senior seminar have researched and debated the major economic issues of our times: trade policy, national health insurance, the government deficit, and the alleviation of poverty.

In studying the last of these issues, our students have usually concluded that government disincentives to work that were inadvertently built into our welfare system often made the problems they were designed to alleviate worse. Finally, in the mid-90s, it seemed as if parts of the country came around to our students' way of thinking, and major reforms were enacted. Progressive states like Wisconsin led the way two years ago by making it much harder for able-bodied people to continue drawing welfare checks. And the federal government eventually passed major welfare reform legislation in 1996.

Part of education, however, is to do the hard work of going back to see how ideas actually work themselves out in the real world. What have these reforms wrought? There is no question that many single parents and never-married mothers have joined the work force in recent years. It also appears that some families headed by these mothers have experienced real increases in income when their salaries, earned income tax credits, and tax breaks associated with child care are netted against lost food stamps and welfare checks.

Official poverty rates are down, especially those rates that attempt to measure the number of children living in poverty. And it

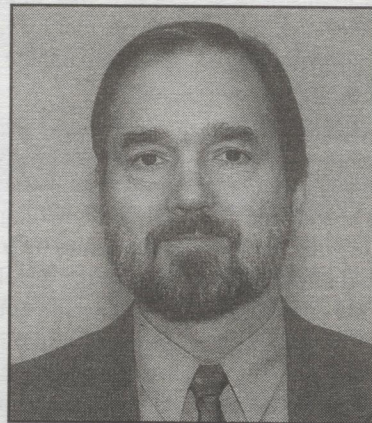
is difficult to measure the long-term effects on self-image and mental health that come from engaging in productive activity and even modest movements up the economic ladder, but such benefits surely exist.

Before we as a society congratulate ourselves too much, we should recognize that my students, even fifteen or twenty years ago, highlighted at least four distinct areas of needed reform, only two of which have been touched upon. Yes, we have made it more difficult not to work, and we have created incentives to work through tax breaks. But most of the country still has not adequately addressed the injustice of abruptly cutting off health insurance for those who don't quite qualify for welfare. While Wisconsin began a program, just this summer, to offer low cost health insurance for the working poor, most states force these people to fend for themselves in a world of punishingly high health insurance premiums coupled with shrinking medical benefits. Until we fix this problem we should not be surprised that bankruptcy rates stay remarkably high in spite of low unemployment rates and lots of jobs. Forty-three million Americans are going to work day after day without the comfort afforded by adequate medical insurance, always but a single accident or illness away from insolvency.

The fourth problem area which my students highlighted for change and which we

have not seriously addressed is the historical confusion over the relationship between the church and the state in the promotion of

public welfare. My earlier students must be amazed at how far our government has come. In an almost unbelievable move, the federal government paved the way in 1996 through their "Charitable Choice" legislation for churches to receive either direct or indirect grants from the government for their poverty alleviation efforts. The legislation even allowed states and municipalities to set up programs that allow recipients to use



Dr. John Visser teaches business administration.

vouchers at the service provider of their choice. This means that they willingly open themselves up to the healing power of the gospel without violating the constitutional principle of separation of church and state. Provider organizations (e.g., churches) were even allowed to maintain appropriately discriminatory hiring policies, for example, by insisting that only Christians be hired to maintain the consistency and integrity of the ministry.

What good is it, my students would always say, to pretend that monetary or material solutions alone will solve a poverty problem which may in itself be a symptom of deeper problems such as moral and spiritual confusion, anti-normative behavior patterns, or the breakdown of community. Now I finally have a chance to see if my students were right. Unfortunately, according to a survey taken last year of "theologically conservative" congregations, only twenty-four percent were even interested in participating in "Charitable Choice." So Christians are passing up opportunities to set up programs to help people like single mothers, who may have their struggles exacerbated by trying to balance a job with having enough time and energy for the children they've been away from all day—even when we could fund them with our own hard-earned tax dollars! All because many Christians are suspicious of working too closely with government.

Christians need to resolve the misconceptions about their relationship to the government. We need to see the importance and legitimacy of government in the light of the Scriptures. We need to see government as a service provider as well as a tax collector. We need to realize that many problems can be solved much more efficiently and effectively through a just and beneficent government than they could be when dealt with individually. And finally, we need to realize that the opportunity to help alleviate poverty in an atmosphere of religious freedom rather than an atmosphere of religious discrimination is a rare opportunity in the history of the world. We can ill afford to let such a golden opportunity succumb to a lethal concoction of wrong thinking and apathy.

“We can ill afford to let such a golden opportunity succumb to a lethal concoction of wrong thinking and apathy.”

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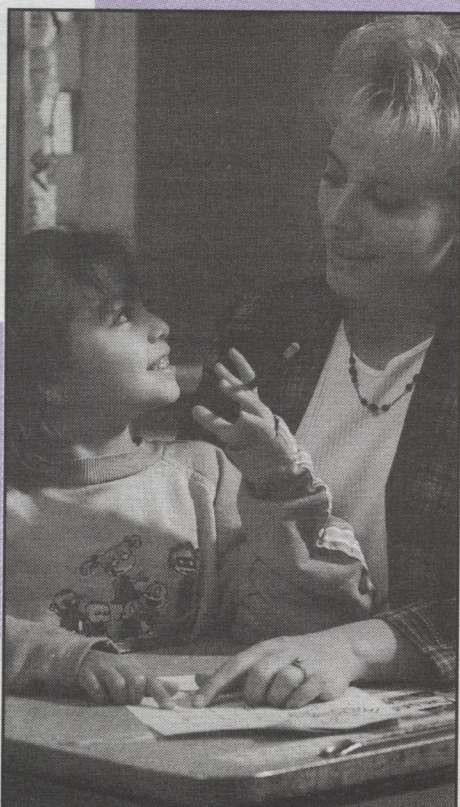
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Faculty News



Dr. Henry Duitman.

Music professor **Dr. Henry Duitman** was the guest conductor for the Northwest Iowa Junior High Orchestra Festival in Sioux City, Iowa, in late October. More than 250 string

players rehearsed together throughout the day and performed a concert in the evening.

Dr. Wayne Kobes, professor of theology, and **Dr. Ron Vos**, professor of agriculture, gave a presentation at the annual Agricultural Missions Conference sponsored by

Dordt Press new release

*Physical Education,
Sports and Wellness:
Looking to God as
We Look at Ourselves*

John Byl & Tom Visker, editors
paper, 336 pgs., \$19.95 U.S.

A collection of papers from the annual Conferences on Christianity, Sport, Leisure, and Wellness, 1994-1998. Contains five sections: 1) Your Body: Good and Beautiful; 2) Your Body: Glorifying God and Enjoying Him Forever; 3) Teaching Physical Education; 4) Learning Through Sport; and 5) Historically Rooted Perspectives. A companion volume to *Christianity and Leisure: Issues in a Pluralistic Society* (Dordt Press, 1994).

other titles

Sound Stewardship: How Shall Christians Think About Music?

by Karen De Mol
1999, paper, 52 pages, \$3.25 U.S.

Articulates a Christian perspective on music based on the realities of creation, fall, redemption, and eschaton. The author, professor of music at Dordt College, also considers several difficult issues such as what makes music Christian, how music carries meaning, and how we judge music. Originally published as an article in *Pro Rege*.

Falling Into Grace
by Laura Apol

1998, paper, 99 pages, \$10.25 U.S.

A collection of poetry and prose exploring the grace-filled experience of everyday moments. "The pieces in this collection . . . remind me of how deeply grace runs through and around each of our lives," says Apol, who teaches writing and children's literature at Michigan State University.

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Educational Concerns Hunger Organization (ECHO) in North Fort Myers, Florida. The title of the presentation was "Saving Souls or Doing Agricultural Development: A False Dichotomy." Five students from Dordt also attended the three-day conference.

In late October, biology professor **Dr. James Mahaffy** presented his work on the history of plants whose vegetation made up the Illinois coals at an annual meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (scientists who study pollen and spores) in Savannah, Georgia.

HPER professor **Dr. Tom Visker** co-edited a recently published book titled *Physical Education, Sports and Wellness: Looking to God as We Look at Ourselves*. The book is a compilation of articles from the annual conferences on Christianity, Sport, Leisure, and Wellness, 1994-1998.

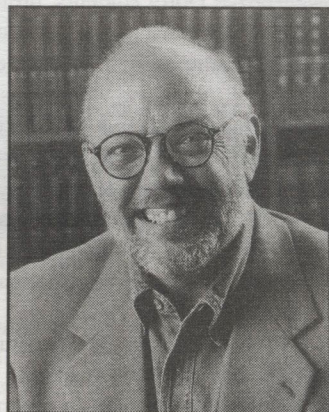
Dr. Sydney Hielema, theology professor, was recently appointed chair of the denominational youth ministry committee of the Christian Reformed Church.

Dr. James C. Schaap's account of Diet Eman's Dutch Resistance story during World War II, *Things We Couldn't Say*, ranked fifty-eighth on Amazon's sales rank counter in mid-November following a three-day feature by Dr. James Dobson on Eman. The demand spurred Eerdmans Publishing to print several thousand paperback copies of the book.

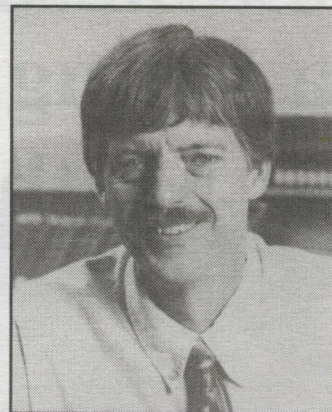
Communication professor **Tim Vos** reviewed the new television season in *The Banner's* January 3 media page, "Tuned In."

Dr. John Van Dyk, director of the Center for Educational Services, conducted a ten-day course in Christian perspectives on teaching in Smithers, B.C., this past summer. In August, Van Dyk led an orientation session for teachers of five Christian schools in the Lansing and South Holland, Illinois, area. On October 28 and 29, he conducted four workshops at the 45th anniversary convention of the Ontario Christian Teachers Association, held in Toronto.

English professor **Dr. James Schaap's** new novel, *Romey's Place*, is now in print. Published by Eerdmans, the book follows the friendship of two adolescent boys from different backgrounds. Schaap is also anticipating the January release of *On the Trail of the Spirit*, a book of stories written about sixteen people or families from around the world who have come to know the Lord through the Back to God Hour radio ministry of the Christian Reformed Church.



Dr. James Schaap



Dr. Sydney Hielema

The professional involvements of Dordt faculty members outside the classroom reveal Dordt's commitment to provide educational leadership in the Christian community as well as among its own students. By sharing these activities, we hope to provide fellow Christians with further resources, ideas, and encouragement as they work to be of service in Christ's kingdom.

Bajema earns Ph.D. studying rural education

Agriculture professor Duane Bajema recently completed his Ph.D. at Iowa State University studying how where a student lives affects his or her future education and occupation. Bajema's dissertation was titled "Educational and Occupational Aspirations of Rural High School Seniors in the Private and Public Schools of Northwest Iowa."

"I wanted to research a subject that would be useful to schools, the agricultural sector, and rural communities," says Bajema, adding that rural education is often considered to be at a disadvantage when compared to the education offered by urban schools. "There are many things going on in rural education that are good but do not get recognized because we have an urban model of what schools and education should be," he says. Bajema believes that society should establish criteria for successful education that incorporates the strengths of rural education.

Many people, he says, think that rural education is inferior because it lacks the money prestigious suburban schools have. They assume that fewer funds means poorer equipment, facilities, and teachers. Some see school consolidation as the answer to the problem.

But Bajema found that rural students do not seem to be hindered by their education. He conducted a survey of 854 high school seniors in the seventeen public and private high schools served by Iowa's Area IV Education Agency, noting where they live: a house in town, an apartment in town, an acreage, a small farm, or a large farm. He found that many of the perceived barriers to educational or career opportunities did not seem to hold. Furthermore, differences between rural and urban students were basically similar to differences between rural and town students.

Although Bajema is not ready to release much of his data until it is published and shared with the schools who cooperated with him in his study, he did make a number of interesting observations.

- An amazing ninety percent of these students plan to go on for further education.
- Fewer than five percent of students surveyed want to go into the military.
- Rural students are heavily involved in leadership and athletic activities.
- Rural—even as opposed to town—students have higher esteem for their teachers.
- Northwest Iowa students are ninety-nine percent Caucasian.
- Private schools have a higher percentage of rural students than public ones.

And there's much more in the charts and tables that make up his dissertation that will be written up and presented to schools and communities.

Bajema looks forward to talking with the schools who participated, saying their cooperation was exemplary. Every school in the area cooperated with the study.

"My committee and advisor were amazed at such cooperation," he says, adding, "This participation and interest is indicative of the desire of the schools to improve."

The schools have all expressed eagerness to see his results so they could continue to improve the education they provide. Bajema plans to continue his study as he returns to the classroom and hopes to work in cooperation with other Iowans interested in rural education.



Duane Bajema

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Bajema found that rural students do not seem to be hindered by their education.

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Costume parade a fitting tribute as Matheis retires

Gena Koning

Friends, family members, colleagues, and students gathered in Dordt's New World Theatre on Saturday, December 11, to pay tribute to Shirley Matheis, who announced her retirement at the end of the semester. The occasion was a costume parade showcasing the best of twenty-two years of Matheis's costumes.

Matheis spent the final weeks of her time at Dordt gathering and preparing her favorite costumes to be modeled in the parade. Her work and organization was evident as over twenty-five Dordt students, professors, and graduates paraded across a stage in the New World Theatre in the finest of her vast collection of costumes and wigs. Hosted by '98 Dordt graduate Gena Koning, the costume parade displayed magnificent pieces from seventeen musicals and plays. They included the cartoonish-looking costumes from the play "Vardley's Lives," which earned her an award for costuming from the American College Theater Festival in 1984.

Following the parade of costumes, both past and current directors attested to Shirley's amazing skills not only in sewing, but in organizing and observing. "Shirley has consistently contributed intelligent and useful observations in our many significant struggles to do theater Christianly. She was an important participant in the writing of our departmental mission statement, our assessment plan, in the design process of our main-stage shows, and in the running of the department. To say she will be missed is to make a gross understatement," says current theater director Simon du Toit.

"Picky, picky, picky," were the three words former director Verne Meyer used to describe Matheis. Others agreed. Du Toit says, "She is an unusually organized person, which permits us to make more out of our costume department than most, and she has an eye for detail that is sometimes infuriating to those of us less perspicacious, but that is central to our work; the success of an artwork depends upon



Over two dozen students gave their last Saturday of the semester to join a costume parade in honor of Shirley Matheis's retirement.

precision and consistency of detail."

Matheis began her work at Dordt in 1977 as the costumer for the theatre arts department (basically since its inception), working with Verne Meyer, Jim Koldenhoven, and Mike Stair first, then in recent years with John Hofland, Simon du Toit, and Jeri Schelhaas. During her years at Dordt, Matheis has costumed over forty main-stage productions, as well as several one-acts, repertory theater troupes, and dance productions. Hundreds of students were fitted by her capable hands.

Some of Matheis's favorite costumes are period costumes, such as those from the 1600s she created for the Shakespeare plays or the early twentieth century ones created for some more recent Dordt theater productions. Matheis says one of her most difficult shows to costume was Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The costuming was so time-consuming and difficult that it almost put her into early retirement.

"I remember sitting in the Auto Dine and starting to cry," she says today. "That was not like me at all." But, she managed to complete the costumes on time and continued her work with the theater department for many more years. Some of those costumes from *Romeo and Juliet* were featured in the costume parade in her honor.

Models wore several of Matheis's beloved period costumes, many of which were made of drapery fabric. "Much of the fabric," says Matheis "was donated and re-dyed for use in

the costumes." An example included a costume from *Romeo and Juliet*, which had started out as a cream-colored bedspread with a velvety floral pattern that was dyed forest-green and fashioned into a doublet with bagged sleeves.

Matheis said that in her early years at Dordt, she didn't think about costumes wearing out, but she has since learned how to construct costumes that are functional and durable. Zippers and drawstrings were nixed early-on since they come out or get stuck at inopportune times. Amazingly, most of Matheis's costumes were constructed from scratch. She would make her own patterns or enlarge tiny patterns from costume books.

Despite her extreme attention to details, it's Matheis's attitude that will be missed most of all. "She was always positive in any situation," says former director Jim Koldenhoven. Du Toit agrees, saying, "Shirley has been a great example to me in her consistent effort to be positive and thoughtful of others, despite the challenges of daily life." Her relationship with her work-study students, her affinity for talking and telling stories, and her passion for a good game of Scrabble were other comments that highlighted the evening.

It was evident as the tribute drew to a close that the person everyone knows as "Shirley" will leave a huge void in Dordt's theater department upon her retirement. "Simply put," says du Toit, "this is the end of an era."

Most of Matheis's
costumes were
constructed
from scratch.

DORDT COLLEGE

Dordt College is seeking applications for openings beginning August 2000 in the following areas:

FACULTY

Education:

Introduction, upper-level, and possibly graduate levels, with emphasis on special education

Foreign Language (2 positions)

two modern languages
Spanish

Theatre Arts (2 positions)

Design and Theatre History
Directing and Acting

Engineering

Mechanical

English

Generalist

Psychology (possible position)

General/Applied

Theology (one-year position)

General education courses in biblical theology and upper-level biblical studies

Evaluation of applications will continue until the positions are filled. To learn more about a position and receive application materials, qualified persons committed to a Reformed, biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to send a curriculum vitae and a letter of interest that provides evidence of that commitment to Dr. Rockne McCarthy; Dordt College, 498 4th Ave NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697; facsimile: 712-722-4496; e-mail: vpaa@dordt.edu; Web site: www.dordt.edu/offices/acadaff/

Dordt College is an equal opportunity institution that strongly encourages the nominations and candidacies of women, minorities, and disabled persons.

DORDT COLLEGE

498 4th Avenue NE • Sioux Center, Iowa 51250 • 712-722-6000

Insuring our future

Dave Vander Werf
Director of Planned Giving

In the late 1980s Dordt College implemented a trial program called the Alumni Life Program. This program had two main objectives: increase gift support from younger alums and increase the deferred gifts portion of our endowment.

The program used life insurance as a tool to accomplish these objectives. Some of our younger alumni were approached and asked to consider purchasing a life insurance policy naming Dordt College as the beneficiary of the policy. The premiums were paid in full by the alum after seven to ten years.

The Alumni Life program achieved our objectives and was a great success for Dordt College. We urge you to consider whether life insurance could be a useful planning tool for you and at the same time benefit the future needs of the college.

Benefits to the donors of life insurance policies:

- Younger donors usually pay lower premiums.
- The donor is able to make a sizable

deferred gift to the college that may not have been possible through traditional means.

- In a short period of time the policy can be fully funded.
- Donors gain the satisfaction of knowing their gift will benefit future generations of students at Dordt College.

Some of the benefits to Dordt College:

- can be used in a variety of areas, such as scholarship needs, new technology needs, developing new programs of study, and helping to keep our facilities current;
- helps in keeping tuition affordable.

You can see that the use of life insurance can be a valuable planning tool that benefits both the donor and Dordt College. We realize that every person's situation regarding life insurance is unique, and we urge you to consult with your financial advisor, a member of our staff, or the Barnabas Foundation when considering such a gift. If you decide to move forward with a gift of life insurance please notify our office after you and your insurance agent have chosen the policy that is right for you.

Sports updates

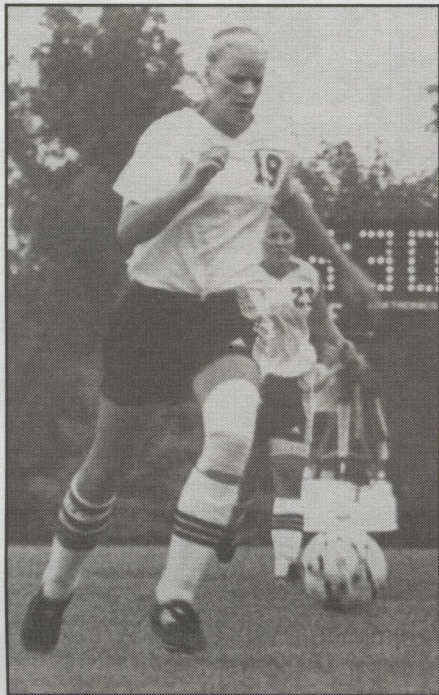
Andrea Visser

Women's Soccer

This fall was another successful one for the 1999 Dordt women's soccer team. Coached by Steven Westra in his first year with the team, the Lady Defenders finished their season with a record of 12-5. Dordt defeated Briar Cliff 7-1 in their first game of the NAIA Region III Independent Tournament,

with junior Kalie Gaskill recording three goals to add to her team season lead of 19. The Lady Defenders advanced to play Huron, but lost 1-0 in a hard-fought game that was decided in overtime.

Both Gaskill (Sioux City, Iowa) and senior Kelli Holwerda (Holland, Mich.) were named to the Region III first team, while senior Sheila Jansma (Chino, Calif.) and Heather Broekhuis (Mountlake Terrace, Wash.) were named to the second team. Four Lady Defenders will be graduating at the end of this year.



Senior Kelli Holwerda was named to the NAIA Region III first team.

Men's soccer

The Dordt men's soccer team went through a rebuilding year, welcoming five freshmen to a lineup that already included eight sophomores. The team was coached by Bill Elgersma, who completed his seventh season with the Defenders. Travis Burgers scored in overtime to give Dordt a 2-1 win over Huron in their first game at the NAIA Region III Men's Tournament. Dordt then lost to University of Mary 3-2 to end their season at 8-10, finishing strong, despite a rough start to their season.

Burgers (Sioux Falls, S.D.) was named to the first team for the Region III Independent team, while Paul Mortlock (Spokane, Wash.) and D.J. Draayer (Sioux Center, Iowa) were named to the second team. For the entire

NAIA Region III team, Burgers was again named to first team, while Draayer was named to the second team.

Cross Country

The women's cross country team had a rebuilding year under coach Ross Goheen. After losing several seniors from the 1998 SDIC championship team, this year's squad was made up mainly of freshmen. Dordt's women steadily improved as the season went on and ended on a strong note with a third-place finish at the SDIC meet in Spearfish, South Dakota. Senior Julie Huizenga (Highland, Ind.) and junior Tabitha Vander Wilt (Hospers, Iowa) were this year's captains.

On the men's side, this year's team returned four seniors and nine upperclassmen. Jeff Summerhays (Brantford, Ont.) capped an outstanding collegiate cross country career by winning two meets this season and finishing in the top ten six times. Summerhays also won the Dordt College Invitational for the fifth straight

year. He ended his career with twenty-eight first-place finishes and three NAIA national meet trips. The men placed above thirty-two teams in their meets this year, while the women defeated thirty teams throughout the season.

Volleyball

A hopeful return to nationals came up short this year, as Dordt was defeated by National American in the championship game of the NAIA Region III Tournament held here at Dordt College. Support of the team was obvious as students, family members, and community came out to cheer on the Lady Defenders. The team fought hard in a 3-2 loss that ended their season at 31-8.

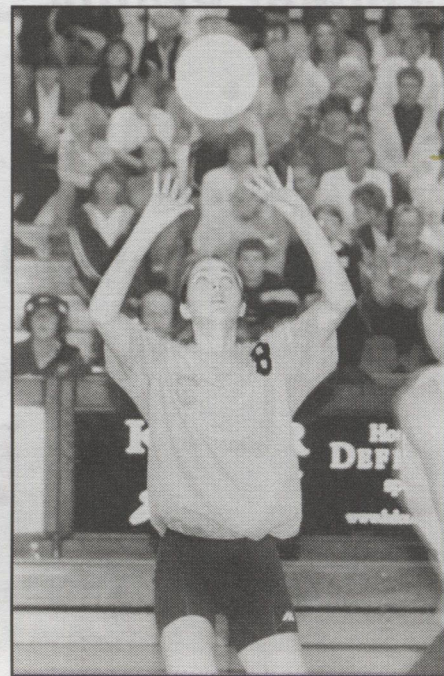
Kim Van Dyken (Sioux Center, Iowa), a senior setter whose excellent performance has earned her well-deserved recognition throughout her college career, was named to the South Dakota Iowa Conference (SDIC) all-conference team, along with Karen Netz (Pella, Iowa), and Darci Bouma (Orange City, Iowa). Freshman Andrea Johnson (Des Moines, Iowa) was named to the second team. Van Dyken was also named the Most Valuable Player in the SDIC by a vote of conference coaches, and she earned SDIC setter-of-the-week honors five times this season. She is Dordt's only graduating player. The highlight of the season was Dordt's winning its fifth straight SDIC championship.

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team got off to its best start in school history, jumping to a 7-1 record three weeks into the season. Earlier in the season, Dordt won the Central Classic in Pella, Iowa, defeating both Central College and Presentation College. Over the Thanksgiving weekend, Dordt won the Defender Gold Classic, defeating Presentation 81-72 in the semi-final before putting away nationally ranked Jamestown, 80-66. Over the Christmas break, the Dordt men will be travel to Southern California to play Vanguard College in Costa Mesa on December 27th and Christian Heritage in El Cajon on December 30th.

Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team was at 2-2 after two weeks of play, defeating Buena Vista and Central College, both NCAA Division III schools. Sophomore Serena Van Beek (Hartley, Iowa) was named SDIC player-of-the-week. Van Beek tied the school record with six three-point field goals versus Central on November 19. The Lady Defenders will travel to Washington and British Columbia over the holiday break. Dordt will play in the Puget Sound Tournament, December 17 and 18 in Tacoma, Washington. On Tuesday, December 21, the women will play in Langley, British Columbia, versus Trinity Western University.



Senior Kim Van Dyken was named to the SDIC All-Conference team.

“

The men's basketball team got off to its best start in school history.

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Meet Dordt's newest board of trustees members

Rev. Henry Dykema is a new representative for Classis Northcentral Iowa. Dykema is a pastor at Hollandale CRC, in Hollandale, Minnesota, where he has served for the past three and a half years. He became familiar with Dordt College because a number of students from Hollandale have attended Dordt in recent years. Dykema appreciates the “sound biblical and Reformed commitment” of Dordt and looks forward to “working with others to improve and stretch Dordt educationally as well as broaden its reformed witness.” He also would like to see a greater ethnic diversity in the students and faculty at Dordt.

Dawn Menning, a new at-large member of the board, lives in Rock Valley, Iowa, and works as a ministry coordinator for Global Partners, Inc., which networks Christ-centered ministries throughout the world. Menning attended Dordt for two years in the 1960s and her son, Mark, graduated in 1996. “I appreciated the Reformed theology, the

emphasis in every subject,” says Menning. She looks forward to being involved in Dordt and learning how it operates.

Rev. Rodney Vander Ley is the representative for Classis Pacific Northwest. He is the pastor of Tacoma (Washington) Christian Reformed Community Church, a church he has served for the past 26 years. Vander Ley graduated with Dordt's first four-year class in 1965, and appreciates how Dordt is “committed to the Bible's teaching that God is sovereign over all life and as Christians, how we can impact our world for Jesus Christ.” Vander Ley looks forward to continuing that philosophy as a board member, as well as helping Dordt bring the gospel to the world.

Willy Vander Woude, a homemaker from Ramona, California, is an at-large member of the board. Three of her children have attended Dordt; a fourth is a current student. Willy appreciates the faithful teaching and Christian witness of the faculty and community at Dordt and looks forward to

better understanding the work that goes into making Dordt the Reformed place it is.

Rachelle Wiersma, from Orange City, Iowa, is one of the new at-large members of Dordt's board. She is in her second year as a curriculum editor for Christian Schools International and previously taught in schools in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Orange City, Iowa. Her husband, father, brother and sister all attended Dordt, and her father also previously served on the board. “I appreciate [Dordt's] commitment to Christian higher education and keeping the Reformed perspective,” she says. “I also appreciate the leadership it has taken in terms of getting the message out about being a Christian in all areas of life.” Wiersma looks forward to helping Dordt move forward in its mission, and to being an encourager of the college.

Rev. John Witvliet is another new at-large member of the board and has served for six and a half years as pastor at First Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center, Iowa. His involvement with the college comes as a

result of being the pastor of a number of Dordt staff and students. Witvliet appreciates how the size of Dordt allows for a meaningful experience of community and how the college has a focused sense of mission. He also appreciates the “honest grappling with what does it mean to be Reformed and Christian,” he says. Witvliet looks forward to helping both the board and the college mature as the community grows and becomes more diverse.

Joe Van Tol, CEO of People's Bank in Rock Valley, is another new at-large member of Dordt's board. Van Tol attended Dordt for several semesters in the late 1950s and early 60s, and three of his four sons also attended Dordt. He appreciates Dordt because it “tries to work as an extension of the family and helps families raise children who are mature Christian young men and women.” Van Tol looks forward to learning more about the college and contributing to what he considers “one of the best colleges in the upper Midwest.”

Kooi pitches Chicago to the world

“

I'm learning so much from this. It's a great geography lesson.”

”

“

A lot of people don't understand that almost everything they read or watch on television has some PR person behind it.”

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Sonya Jongsma Knauss ('97) is a freelance journalist living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she occasionally writes for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Sonya Jongsma Knauss

Heidi Kooi ('94) probably thought she'd seen her last cow after graduating from Dordt and moving to downtown Chicago. But last summer she got to know 300 of them on a first-name basis (and even introduced them to Oprah's production crew).

To draw in more tourists, the city of Chicago decided this past summer to create a "Cows on Parade" exhibit featuring 300 fiberglass cows, modeled after a similar exhibition in Switzerland. As media relations manager for the city's tourism department, it was up to Kooi to promote this venture.

"I have to say, when I found out about it in March, I really questioned whether it would fly," she said. But her enthusiasm grew as she saw the first fiberglass cows, decorated by local artists and paid for by corporate sponsors, begin to take shape.

"It was so whimsical and so colorful that kids—and adults, too—just couldn't get enough of them," she said.

Kooi has been in charge of public relations for the Chicago office of tourism since June of 1997, and this has been her most challenging—and exciting—year. The cow exhibit generated so much national attention, Kooi was busy for months lining up interviews and providing information for news heavyweights like the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. *People* magazine also took interest in the exhibit, along with the *Today Show* and *Good Morning America*.

By the time she led a production crew around to do a spot for Oprah's show, Kooi knew all the names of the cows and had little stories to tell about each of them.

While the excesses of such an exhibit—companies paid \$3,500 per sponsored cow—may seem a little silly to some, Kooi says people really enjoyed seeing them. But, even more importantly, she says, the city sold almost half of the cows, which were donated by the sponsoring companies, to raise money for charities.

In two auctions, one on-line and one live, the city raised \$3.5 million for more than 100 different charities. Oprah herself bought three cows for her farm in Indiana, and *USA Today* interviewed a nine-year-old whose daddy bought her a \$22,000 cow for her room.

"I suppose purchasing a \$22,000 cow for a nine-year-old raises questions about parenting and the value of money, but hopefully the father explained the charity (Prevent Child Abuse America) and the less fortunate it serves," Kooi commented.

But if her summer project was a little extravagant and unusual, Kooi's next assignment is even more so. Chicago has decided to invite two people from every nation in the world for an "international millennium dinner" at McCormick Place.

"It was such a sweet idea. . . ." Kooi trails off, sounding a little in awe of the logistics of such an undertaking.

While all hotel rooms have been donated and different airlines have donated many tickets, the city will still spend about a million dollars on the event. Kooi has invited U.S.-based foreign correspondents to cover

the dinner, and has had to field many calls from foreign reporters wanting to know who their country's representative is.

"I've been going in to work at six or seven a.m. so I can make calls to Australia without waking them up in the middle of the night," Kooi said.

Despite the long hours, Kooi loves her work. She considers the millennium

celebration one of the most exciting things she's ever been part of.

"I'm learning so much from this," she said. "It's a great geography lesson." One man, who lives on an island she'd never heard of before, has to catch a boat to get to Chicago for the celebration. His island doesn't have an airport, and boats leave only once a month. Depending on the winds, he could end up either in New Zealand or Panama, so arrangements had to be made in both places to fly him to Chicago.

These and other stories are some of the things Kooi spends her time talking about to members of the media looking for human interest angles or other details on the upcoming dinner.

Public relations is a varied field, but Kooi has found her niche—at least for now—with her current job. "I love this city, and I'm pretty proud of where I live," she said. She says she doesn't have to compromise her convictions to promote Chicago as a great city to visit.

When she started out, with an internship at Edelman Public Relations, one of the world's largest PR companies, she was asked to represent Marlboro. This was the only time she can think of that she has felt a conflict between her work and what she values.

"It was difficult for me to promote that," she said. "Philip Morris was our client and the whole goal was to get the Marlboro name mentioned."

Before she had to deal with the conflict, she was moved to another area. After her internship, she continued working for Edelman, then another small company promoting the Wisconsin Dells, before she was hired by the city of Chicago.

Kooi says that despite the fact that she "hardly knew what a press release was" when she was at Dordt, her liberal arts education has given her a good solid background for the variety of things she is



Heidi Kooi poses with Heidi: The High Flyer, a cow sponsored by Swiss Air. It wasn't necessarily her favorite of the cows on parade, she says, but since it bears her name and is located across from the Chicago Cultural Center where her office is, it made a good photo opportunity.

expected to know and do in her position. She remembers her speech class as being a good "building block" for many things she does now, and she says she uses the guidelines she learned growing up in Christian schools.

"Whatever I'm doing, it isn't for my glory," she says. "It's important that I do it to the best of my ability."

Kooi credits her semester on the Chicago Metro program with giving her the experience she needed to get into her field. "If I can at all persuade any undergrads to go on any off-campus study program, this would be it," she said, referring to her time in Chicago.

Kooi learned her public relations skills on the job during the program.

"A lot of people don't understand that almost everything they read or watch on television has some PR person behind it, telling the reporter what they want them to know," she said. "In PR, there's a lot of spinning and twisting of stories. You definitely need to watch your ethics."

Although public relations can be a tough field for Christians, Kooi says she hasn't really had much trouble keeping the faith in her current position. "I suppose 'spinning' a story can pose ethical situations depending on the product, service, or people you're representing. At the Chicago office of tourism, I am rarely faced with compromising situations," she said.

She continues to be thankful for the opportunities Dordt provided, not only through the Chicago Metro Program, but in many other ways as well.

"Dordt definitely contributed to a strong Christian foundation, started by my family, that has helped me in my career. Right now, with the anticipation of hosting these international guests, I'm learning every day to deal with stress. Knowing that God's guidance is provided, even if I may forget to ask for it, is a great comfort."

Alumni board changes to alumni council

By Judy Hagey

Since the early 1970s the Alumni Association Board of Directors has represented the interests of Dordt alumni. A nine-member local committee took



Judy (Vande Hoef, '73) Hagey

the lead in establishing many of the activities that have become traditional alumni events—our winter homecoming and summer reunion programs. They also launched the first vehicle for

communicating with alumni, *The Dordtell*, which eventually became part of the *Voice*.

As the alumni body grew in size and became more dispersed across North America, the local committee gave way to a thirteen-member board with representatives from eight regions across the U.S. and Canada. At its October meeting the board of trustees approved the latest changes for this group.

The alumni board now functions under a new name—Alumni Council—and will increase in size in the next few years. Why these changes? The alumni board has always served as an advisory body to the alumni director and college administration. The term "council" conveys that advisory status more clearly. My dictionary defines "council" as an assembly of persons called together for consultation, deliberation, or discussion; a body elected/appointed to serve in an advisory capacity. The individuals elected to this body are asked to represent the interests of alumni to the college and to assume a leadership role in promoting Dordt College and her interests in their community.

The council will grow over the next few years—again a recognition of the continuing increase in size and distribution of Dordt alumni. While the eight regions will remain unchanged, as scheduled elections occur in each region, the number of representatives will increase by a number appropriate to the number of alumni in that region. In this way we hope to give alumni a voice and give Dordt a more visible presence.

In the first election cycle under our new operating guidelines, three individuals have been elected from region 8—the eastern states and provinces and all international alumni.

Sylvan Gerritsma ('68) lives in St. Catharines, Ontario, where he owns and operates a small tool business. He and his wife, Karen, have four children, two of whom are Dordt alums. They are members of Jubilee Fellowship Christian Reformed Church. Sylvan also serves on the boards of the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS) and Reformed Faith Witness, publisher of the *Christian Courier*.

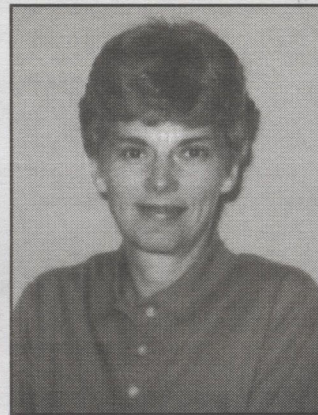
Rhonda (Huizenga) Vogelzang ('76) lives in Jericho, Vermont, with her husband, Mark ('79) and their five children. Music activities occupy her professional and leisure time. She teaches piano and voice lessons, directs a high school chorus, and contributes to the music program at their church, Jericho Congregational, as well as community organizations. The Vogelzangs are also foster parents for a local Christian family services agency.



Rhonda (Huizenga) Vogelzang

Glenda (Vande Kamp) Kragt ('72) and her husband, Roger ('71), live with their family in Bradenton, Florida. Glenda is a receptionist in a medical office. They are members of Bradenton Christian Reformed Church, where Glenda is

involved with Coffee Break and worship planning. The Kragts have three children, one of whom is a Dordt alum and one a Dordt senior. As a family they enjoy camping, canoeing, and hiking.



Glenda (Vande Kamp) Kragt

In welcoming these new members to the alumni council, we also say "thank you" to **Nancy Koetsier** ('89), Listowel, Ontario. Nancy has completed a four-year term on the board.

Alumni Survey

The most rewarding parts of my job are the personal contacts and interaction with alumni that planning events and working with the alumni council offer. But satisfying as that is, it does not provide the broad knowledge about the work, interests, and activities of alumni, information that helps us provide programs and services of interest and use to you. The best way to compile that information is through our regular alumni survey. The 2000 survey should arrive in your mailbox in January. I hope you will take a few minutes to complete the survey. (We're hoping to have an on-line version available so you can save the time and expense of a paper copy.) Your response will help us maintain accurate records, which in turn helps us help you stay informed about the college and connected to other alumni.

Regional events

Concert Choir Tour

March 9-Winnipeg, Manitoba
March 10-Regina, Saskatchewan
March 11-Lethbridge, Alberta
March 12-Lacombe, Alberta
March 15-Edmonton, Alberta
March 16-Calgary, Alberta
March 17-Manhattan, Montana
March 18-Rapid City, S. D.
March 19-Platte, South Dakota

Baseball

The Dordt baseball team will play in the Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic in Fort Myers, Florida, March 13-18.

Softball

March 10-11-Salina, Kansas
Kansas Wesleyan Tournament
March 13-Sterling, Kansas
Sterling College
March 14-Ottawa, Kansas
Ottawa University
March 15-Atchison, Kansas
Benedictine

Track

March 11-San Marcos, Texas
March 16-Winfield, Kansas

Friends of Dordt

Friends of Dordt banquets are planned in Visalia and Ripon, California, March 10 and 11, and the Chicago area (Orland Park) and Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, March 17-18. Plan to come out for an evening of good food and a glimpse into Dordt College.

Spirit of Dordt

June 7-9 —(Adults only)
July 19-21—Couples & families (includes a kid's track and a service opportunity)

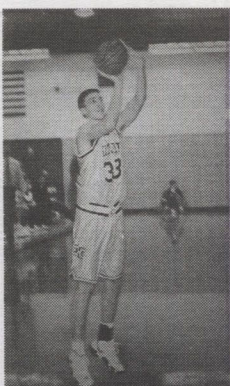
Advance Notice

All-College Reunion
July 21-22

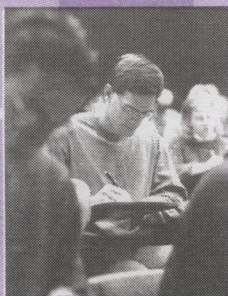
Have you contacted your friends about next summer's all-college reunion? The best way to insure that the people you want to see are there is to call them and tell them that. Need help getting in touch with them? Contact the alumni office. Would you be willing to help contact others in your class? Let us know and we'll supply a class list to help you get in touch with them.

We're making big plans! They include an opportunity to return to the classroom (no tests or grades!), a Ken Medema concert, and lots of opportunities to feast and fellowship.

Watch the mail and the web site for event details and complete tour itineraries.



Come Home to
athletic action
familiar faces



extraordinary
entertainment



Come Home to
Dordt

February 12, 2000

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Schedule of Events

Thursday, February 10

11:00 a.m. Distinguished Alumni Series
David Mulder, D.O. ('79)
Chapel-B.J. Haan Auditorium
6:30 p.m. Alumni Banquet
West Commons
Alumni Artists Reception
following the Alumni Banquet

Friday, February 11

7:30 p.m. Talent Extravaganza
B.J. Haan Auditorium

Saturday, February 12

9:00 a.m. Indoor Track
NIAC Invitational
Rec Center
1:00 p.m. Basketball
Women vs. Mount Marty
DeWitt Gymnasium
3:00 p.m. Men vs. Mount Marty
5:00 p.m. Alumni vs. JV
12:00 to Hospitality Center
6:30 p.m. Multi-purpose Room
2:00 to Childcare Program
6:00 p.m. Defender Gold Room
7:30 p.m. Talent Extravaganza Reprise
B.J. Haan Auditorium
Ice Cream Social
following the Talent Extravaganza
SUB/Commons

Alumni notes

e-mail

Over 1600 alumni have sent us their e-mail addresses. We would like to receive still more, as we hope to use this tool to improve communication with and among alumni. If you want to contact us by e-mail, the address is alumni@dordt.edu. And check out the alumni e-mail directory, announcements and information available on the alumni pages of the Dordt website: www.dordt.edu.

Rev. Dennis Boogerd ('69) has been appointed by the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan, to be the Protestant chaplain of the Grand Rapids Fire Department.

Jerry Blom ('70) was ordained into the ministry by the Christian Reformed Church on September 26, 1999.

Rev. Mark Vander Hart ('75) recently taught a two-week course on the pre-exilic prophets in the Riga Reformed Theological Seminary in Riga, Latvia. This seminary was organized in 1998 with assistance from the International Theological Educational Ministries, Inc., based in St. Louis, Missouri. Mark also taught a short course last June on preaching and lectured about the minor prophets at the Reformed Theological College in Yangon, Myanmar. Mark is the chairman of the Christ for Myanmar Mission Committee and also teaches at Mid-America Reformed Seminary in Dyer, Indiana, in the area of Old Testament studies.

Ed Starkenburg ('80) defended his dissertation and completed his doctoral degree at the University of Northern Iowa. The dissertation is titled, "Social Class Depiction in Selected Award-Winning Children's Narrative Fiction." Ed is an assistant professor of education at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa.

Dave Vruwink ('81) is currently in his tenth year of teaching at Unity Christian High School in Hudsonville, Michigan. He teaches computer-assisted drawing and drafting, as well as coaching the boys' junior varsity soccer team, which he has done for ten years. His wife, Dot, stays home with their four children: Nate, 9; Zack, 7; Max, 4; and Isabella, 14 months.

David and Diane (Schurman) Vander Schaaf ('82, '83) live in Baraboo, Wisconsin, where they own a business developing a new e-commerce shopping mall. They have four children: Justin, 12; Danielle, 9; Kathryn, 3; and Matthew, two months.

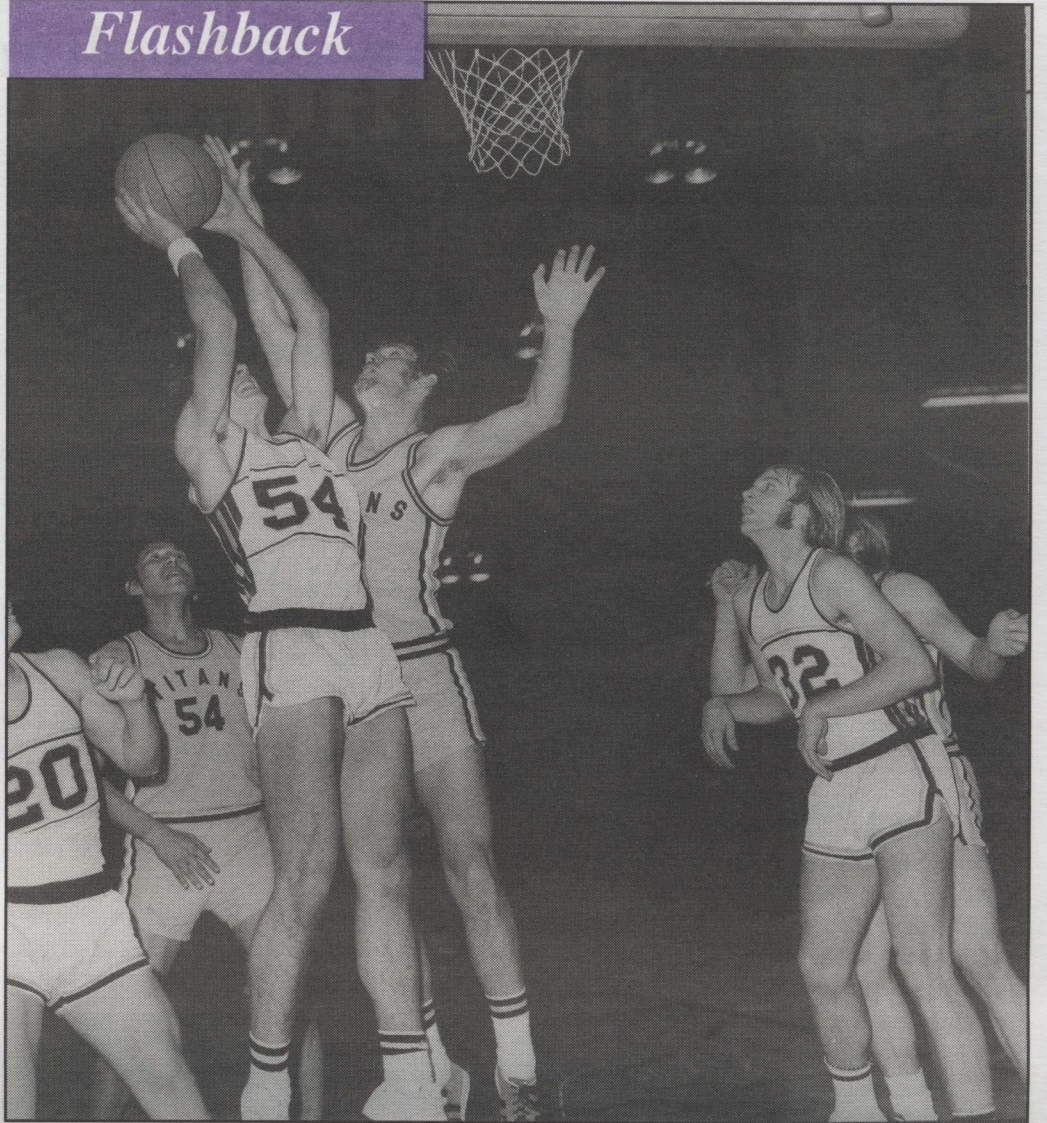
Rev. Henry and Pamela (Feddema) Reyenga ('83, '83) live in Beecher, Illinois, with their five children: Henry, 14; Brianna, 11; Christina, 8; Ann, 4; and Abigail, seven months. Henry is the vice president of the Life Net 21 division of the Bible League, and Pam is enjoying her sixth year of home schooling.

Leanne (Ozinga, '85) Hogan is employed by Bellflower Christian Schools in California as the director of business operations. She recently married John Hogan, an art director at Signco, a sign and screen printing business.

Gale and Cathie (Slenk) Tien ('85, '85) live in St. Louis, Missouri, where Gale is the headmaster at Central Christian School. Two of their children, Mary Catherine, 8, and Alexander, 7, attend Central School. Cathie is a homemaker and stays home with David, 2; and Juliana, six months.

Wayne and Suzanne (van Arragon) Spronk ('86, '86) live in Plattsburgh, New York. Wayne is working in an internal medicine practice, and Suzanne is teaching English as a Second Language part-time at SUNY Plattsburgh. They have two children: Pascal, 3; and Emmanuelle, five months.

Flashback



Dave and Jan Veldhorst ('86) and their four children are preparing for Dave's graduation from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, and then plan to lead a church planting team to Bangkok, Thailand, with the PCA denomination (Mission to the World). The Veldhorsts are currently in the process of recruiting a team and raising support. Lord willing, they will be leaving for Thailand in August 2000. They would love to share the vision God has given them with Dordt students and hope to provide short- and long-term service opportunities for those with a heart for church planting, mercy ministry, and urban church development.

Arthur and Beverly (Jury) Atsma ('87, '88) live in Silverton, Oregon, with their five children: Opal, 6; Gracie, 4; Stella, 2; Clarence, 1; and Anthony, three months. Arthur is a professional entertainer, and Beverly works at home.

David and Alicia (Nugteren, '88) Admiraal recently moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where David is an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska. Alicia stays at home with their four-month-old son Joseph.

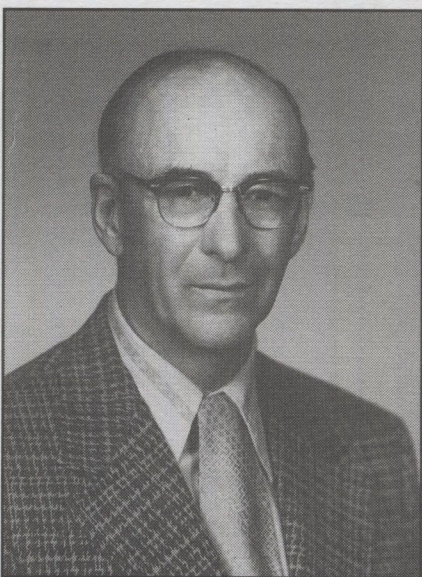
Michael and Sharon (DeGraaf) Baas ('90, '90)

live in Kansas City, Missouri, with their three children: Justin, 6; Brandon, almost 3; and Kaira Lynn, four months. Sharon is a homemaker and home schools Justin. Michael is a software engineer with Harmon Industries, a manufacturer of electronic equipment for railroads. Michael and Sharon are members of Christ Presbyterian Church in Kansas City. The Baas' e-mail address has been listed in the alumni directory on Dordt's web page, and they would love to hear from classmates.

Jeff and Shona (Zylstra) Geels ('90, '91) live in Grandville, Michigan, with their three children: Brandon, 5; Kaylee, 4; and Carissa, three months. Jeff works as a computer program instructor at New Horizons Computer Training Center. After teaching middle school students for four years, Shonna now enjoys spending most of her time at home with her children and also working part-time as an administrative assistant at an assisted-living home.

Troy and Jana (Sjaardema) Kooima ('95, '90) live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where Troy is the youth director at First Christian Reformed Church. Jana provides child care in their home to be with their two children: Alek, 3; and Reis, four months.

In memory of Garrett Rozeboom, professor of education and psychology, 1961-73



Garrett Rozeboom

Garrett Rozeboom retired from Dordt over twenty-five years ago. The following is taken from a tribute read at his funeral and written by LeAnne Dibbet.

Uncle Garrett was a loving person with a passion for every unique opportunity the Lord gave him to serve. His interests included all aspects of life, but a few stand out, bearing precious memories and valuable life lessons.

His ability as a carpenter and handyman are evident in his church. They are also appreciated throughout the town by many of his friends.

He believed in giving back to the Lord and demonstrated that by gently tending a large garden and then sharing the bounty with others. He spent much time helping with farming and harvest-

ing work. We remember bringing him lunch in the field where the dog always got the first and the last bite of his sandwich.

Uncle Garrett was an all-around sportsman. While at Calvin College he helped organize the basketball program and was a valued player of the traveling team. He also enjoyed fishing, and his philosophy on the sport was made clear in the fact that he never used a net. In his words, "you have to give the fish a chance."

We have all reaped the benefits of his love of music. During his career at Western Christian High School, he began a band program. His rousing hymn sings cannot possibly be forgotten. He taught us that how we sing is as important as what we sing.

Most of all, we remember a loving, godly man with a fire in his heart for youth. It was almost impossible to go out with him without a former student or colleague recognizing him. We learned valuable lessons from him, and

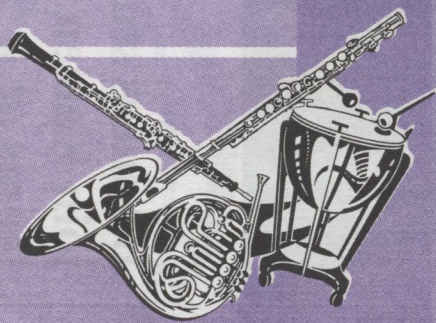
our children have been blessed by his unique ability to listen, help, and give advice. He used stories and illustrations that pointed the way, but let them find the way. And there was always the sensitive but firm reminder that we all make choices, and we must be ready to accept responsibility for them. That was his theory for teaching youth, and he continued to use it in his retirement years when he and Aunt Elsie spent winters in Texas and worked in an orphanage in Mexico.

Uncle Garrett was a faithful and loving brother. Even in the years that he needed to be cared for himself, he was concerned with the welfare of his brothers. That continued until his death. He could be no better example.

Finally, Uncle Garrett was a devoted husband. Aunt Elsie's welfare was a driving force in his life, and he loved her with all his heart. He will be missed, but we rejoice with him as he joins family and friends around God's throne.

Come join our band!

The Alumni Pep Band.
Breathe some new life into that instrument that's lying on the shelf and join our alumni band for a Homecoming performance.
To sign up or for more information, contact the alumni office.



Come Home to Dordt Homecoming February 12, 2000

Jamie and Missi (Bloem, '91) Bogaard recently moved to Fremont, Michigan, where Jamie is the new youth pastor at Second Christian Reformed Church of Fremont. Missi stays home with their two children: Tyler, 4, and Isabella, ten months.

John and Lyn (Mabrey) Howerzyl ('92, '92) live in Sully, Iowa, with their five children: Adam, 5; Mason, 3; Tessa, 2; Graham, 17 months; and Sophie, two months. John is a technical writer at Vermeer Manufacturing. Lyn is a homemaker as well as being the junior choir director and organist for their church, and a piano instructor to thirty-five Central College students through a community-based piano program.

Lorna (Van Zee, '94) Bomgaars lives in Aurora, Colorado, where she is the financial reporting manager at Luzemac America, a talc mining company. Her new husband, Mike, is a stockbroker for Charles Schwab in their options trading department.

Corwin and Carla (Van Gorp) Walhof ('94, '94) live in Corsica, South Dakota, where Corwin is a swine production supervisor for Cenex Harvest States. Carla was previously a teacher, but is now a full-time mother to their two children: Jordan, 2, and Karissa, three months.

Brian and Aimee (Bajema) Van Horssen ('94, ex '96) live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with their two children: Jacob, 2; and Tyler, two months. Brian currently works at Bell Paper Box as a materials coordinator, and Aimee is a maternal flight nurse at Avera McKennan Hospital.

Heidi (Huiskens, '95) Cunningham has been a Spanish teacher at Denver Christian High School for the past four years. Last summer, she married Marc Cunningham.

Troy Meyer ('95) of Clara City, Minnesota, raised the Thanksgiving turkeys for the White House Thanksgiving celebration this year. Meyer works for Jennie-O Turkeys in Willmar, Minnesota. Jennie-O was asked to provide the turkeys this year, one to eat and one to pardon, and Troy was asked by Jennie-O's owner to raise the turkeys himself on his grandpa's farm. The turkey that was pardoned, named Harry, was described in the media as being named for Harry S. Truman, but it really was named for Troy's grandpa, Harry Meyer Jr. The other turkey, Troy, was eaten.

Shelley (Westerhof, '95) Toolis is a teacher at Calvin Christian School in South Holland, Illinois. She teaches 5th grade English and 6th grade math, English and social studies. Shelley married Tom Toolis this past August. Tom works at the American Heart Association in Chicago. They live in Orland Park, Illinois.

Shawn and Janneke (Van Nieuwenhuyzen) Bakker ('95, '96) live in Edmonton, Alberta. Shawn completed his master's degree in psychology at the University of Alberta and is now working as an industrial organizational psychologist at Psychometrics Inc. Janneke taught for three years at West Edmonton Christian School and is now at home with their daughter, Emma.

Dan and Kerri (Brill) De Zwaan ('96, '96) live in Hudsonville, Michigan, where Dan teaches music at Allendale Christian and Allendale Public Schools. Kerri is now a full-time mom to their son, Samuel, three months. Prior to that, she worked for three years as the director of Christian education at Heritage Reformed Church.

Matt and Marcy (VanGameron) Kortman ('96, '97) recently moved to Wyoming, Michigan, from Edgerton, Minnesota. Matt is a sales business manager at Terrytown Travel Center in Grand Rapids, and Marcy enjoys staying home with their new son, Layton, seven months.

Marriages

Leanne Ozinga and John Hogan ('85), 9/11/99
Janice Haak and Kevin Driesen ('92), 6/6/98
Lorna Van Zee and Mike Bomgaars ('94), 6/12/99
Heidi Huiskens and Marc Cunningham ('95), 7/24/99

Ted Kamp ('95) and Traci Clavel, 10/2/99
Shelley Westerhof ('95) and Thomas Toolis, 8/7/99
Gwen Alberda and Troy Bergquist ('96), 9/4/99
Becky Bartels and Mark Raymon ('96), 9/24/99
Nick Breems ('96) and Jennifer Vos ('97), 6/26/1999
Melissa Groen and Mark De Witt ('97), 9/4/99
Brent Bruinsma ('99) and Christi Vander Pol ('98), 7/10/99

In Memory

Sheila (Van Tol '89) Van Den Brink gave birth to a stillborn son, Jacob Arthur, on July 21, 1999, at thirty-five weeks. Sheila and her husband, Dave, also have a son, Kaleb, 4.

Future Defenders

Dave and Dot Vruwink ('81), Isabella Helena, 10/23/98
Richard and Carol (Kanis) Posthuma ('82, '81), Sarah Carol-Marie, 7/14/99
David and Diane (Schurman) Vander Schaaf ('82, '83), Matthew John, 10/19/99
Henry and Pamela (Feddema) Reyenga ('83, '83), Abigail Elizabeth, 5/31/99
Doug and Sue (Hiemstra, '85) Olson, Jonathan Lucas, 3/7/99
Gale and Catherine (Slenk) Tien ('85, '85), Julianna, 6/17/99
Kevin and Pam (Pater, '85) van Engelenhoven, Jesse Scott, 7/24/99
Vernon and Stacie Dykstra ('86), Jadon Dean, 5/29/99
Warren Elgersma and Susan Konynenbelt (ex '86), Ashley Kay, 10/15/99
Brian and Anita (Gietema) Peterson ('86, '86), Sarah Renae, 9/14/99
Wayne and Suzanne (van Arragon) Spronk ('86, '86), Emmanuelle Lynn, 7/27/99
Kevin and Robin Vos ('86), Emily Elizabeth, 10/7/99
Jeff and Trudi (Veurink) Van Zee ('86, '87), Lance Jeffrey, 10/6/99
Arthur and Beverly (Jury) Atsma ('87, '88), Anthony Bernard, 9/3/99
James and Mindy (Jongejeugd, '88) Moore, Ethan Simon, 7/16/99
David and Ellen (Matheis '88) Mouw, Anna Marie, 7/17/99
Jim and Julie (Wind, '88), Reed, Cassandra Arlene, 4/3/99
Greg and Jackie (Visser, '89) De Jong, Cori Ann, 6/28/99
Terry and Donna (Westra, '89) Vandenborn, Riley James, 10/27/99
Roger and Jane (Fedders) Ellens ('89, '90), Tyler Zachary, 9/22/99
Kevin and Carrie (Smits) Veenstra ('89, '90), Kenden John, 8/22/99
Jacob and Donna (Monsma) Steiger ('89, ex '91), Eric James, 10/20/99
Michael and Sharon (DeGraaf) Baas ('90, '90), Kaira Lynn, 8/19/99
Scott and Julie (Vande Voort) Haan ('90, '90), Luke Allen, 9/3/99
Jeff and Shona (Zylstra) Geels ('90, '91), Carissa Marie, 9/2/99
Tom and Val (Ruter) Jonker ('90, '93), Bailey Ann, 9/16/99
Troy and Jana (Sjaardema) Kooima ('95, '90), Reis Matheson, 8/18/99
Jamie and Missi (Bloem, '91) Bogaard, Isabella Hope, 8/22/99
David and Barb (De Jong, '91) Ezinga, Kaila Jean, 9/13/99
Greg and Rhonda (Gritters, '91) Holstege, Marissa Jo, 11/1/99
Javan and Lynelle (Altena, '91) James, Joshua Arron, 8/13/99
Brian and Carey (Vos) Van Donselaar ('91, '91), Jasmine Leae, 10/8/99
Mark and Melissa (Weg, '91) Van Holland, Vanessa Joy, 10/4/99
Arlin and Lou Ann (Bolkema) Franken (ex '91, '92), Cori Brianna, 10/5/99
Ken and Patty (Boer) Timmermans ('92, '91), Allison Rae, 4/23/99
Steve and Camielle (Schelhaas) Veenstra ('92, '91), Kendall John, 9/7/99
Dave and Terri (Menninga) Beukelman ('94, ex '91), Elise Larryn Eda, 8/17/99
Dave and Barb (Du Mez, '92) Clevenger, Benjamin David, 9/12/99
Kurt and Kristin (Rynders, '92) De Kock, Karl John, 9/17/99
John and Lyn (Mabrey) Howerzyl ('92, '92), Sophie Lyn, 10/20/99
Dan and Beth (Boender, '92) Trumble, William Harry, 7/30/99
Chad and Alison (Kuipers) De Kam (ex '93, ex '93), Analise Brooke, 9/9/99
Bryan and Diane (Graves, '93) Eisenga, Jonathon Ray, 6/4/99
Randy and Gail (Van Middendorp, '93) Harlow, Autumn Grace, 8/24/99
James and Emily (Kroese, '93) Lund, Alexandra Grace, 10/18/99
Shane and Kristi (Franken) Vander Kooi ('93, '94), Jonah Jav, 9/14/99
Steve and Tiffany (Hoskins) Van Zee ('93, '94), Ethan Robert, 6/11/99
Henry and Janine (Pennings) Fousert (ex '96, '93), Tanner John, 5/10/98
Richard and Kaylene (Byker) Van Lingen ('93, ex '99), Marcus James, 10/26/99
Jerry and Cassandra (Van't Land, '94) Kats, Dale Henry, 8/6/99
Corwin and Carla (Van Gorp) Walhof ('94, '94), Karissa Lynae, 9/14/99
Clay and Dannielle (Iedema, '94) Weg, Anneke Marie, 9/12/99
Rob and Lisa (Jonkman) Byker ('94, '95), James Robert, 4/15/99
Brian and Aimee (Bajema) Van Horssen ('94, ex '96), Tyler Drew, 10/1/99
Dennis Hadden and Carolyn Kloosterhof-Hadden (ex '95), Julia Johanna, 12/17/98 and Adrianna Danielle and Erika Jean, 9/26/97
Mike and Jill (Van Voorst, '95) Ritz, Shonna Jo, 8/17/99
Lance and Michele (Schiebout) Mesman ('95, '95), Elizabeth Marie, 1/7/99
Eric and Christine (VanHooydonk, '95) Valk, Macayla Adriana, 6/10/99
Shawn and Janneke (Van Nieuwenhuyzen) Bakker ('95, '96), Emma Rae, 5/24/99
Rob and Sonya (Timmermans) Faber ('96, '95), Justin Robert, 4/21/99
Dan and Kerri (Brill) De Zwaan ('96, '96), Samuel Richard, 9/27/99
Randal and Julie (Huinink) Van Rooyen (ex '96, ex '96), Mikayla Jenae, 8/26/99
Matt and Marcy (VanGameron) Kortman ('96, '97), Layton Arthur, 5/19/99
Jason and Kim (De Ronde '97) Brouwer, Kennedy Joy, 8/14/99
Jim and Lissa (Looyenga, '98) Ver Hey, Elise Suzanne, 7/30/99

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPING

We at Dordt College are interested in hearing how you are doing and what kinds of events are happening in your life. Please fill out the coupon below and mail to: Alumni Association, Dordt College, 498 4th Ave. NE, Sioux Center, Iowa 51250 or e-mail voice@dordt.edu.

☐ Marriage ☐ Future Defenders ☐ Address Change
☐ In Memoriam ☐ Alumni News

Name _____

Year _____ Address _____

News Items/Suggestion(s) _____

*There's still time—there's still room
to join the*

Heart of Europe Tour

next summer. Twenty-four alumni and friends are planning to see the highlights of Europe with Professor Koekkoek.

The tour dates are July 6-20, 2000.

Contact the alumni office for more information.

The *Voice*, an outreach of Dordt College, is sent to you as alumni and friends of Christian higher education. The *Voice* is published four times per year to share information about the programs, activities, and needs of the college. Send address corrections and correspondence to *VOICE*, Dordt College, 498 Fourth Ave. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697 or e-mail to voice@dordt.edu

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EVENTS

Art

The gallery is in the chapel mezzanine.

Jan. 10-31 Jerry Smith
Feb. 9-Mar. 9 Alumni Photography show
Mar. 21 Junior Art Show

Campus Activities

Events held in the B.J. Haan Auditorium unless indicated.

Jan. 14 7:30 p.m. Travelogue: *Headwaters of the Amazon*
Jan. 28 7:30 p.m. Price Is Right
Feb. 11 7:30 p.m. Talent Extravaganza
Feb. 12 7:30 p.m. Talent Extravaganza Highlight Show
Feb. 18 7:30 p.m. Travelogue: *The Faces of Italy*
Mar. 17 7:30 p.m. Travelogue: *Amazing Australia*
Mar. 22-24 BJH Conference, West Commons
Apr. 7 7:30 p.m. Travelogue: *Switzerland*

Theater

Plays are performed at 7:30 p.m. in the New World Theatre.

Feb. 24, 25, 26 *An Inspector Calls*
Mar. 2, 3, 4 *An Inspector Calls*

Music

All events are held in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

Jan. 15 7:30 p.m. Senior Recital: Andrew Compton, trumpet
Jan. 16 2:30 p.m. Chamber Orchestra Tour Concert
Feb. 5 7:30 p.m. NISO Winter Pops Concert
Feb. 6 2:30 p.m. Brass/Organ Concert
Feb. 15 7:30 p.m. Heartland of America USAF
Woodwind Quintet Recital
Feb. 18 3:00 p.m. Department Recital
Feb. 19 7:30 p.m. Senior Recital: Leah Vander Kooi, soprano
Feb. 25 3:00 p.m. Department Recital
Feb. 27 2:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensembles Concert:
Campus Band & Jazz Band
Mar. 3 3:00 p.m. Department Recital
Mar. 5 2:30 p.m. Winter Choral Concert
Mar. 6 7:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensembles Concert:
Concert Band & Chamber Orchestra
Mar. 24 7:30 p.m. Concert Choir Tour

Mar. 31 7:30 p.m. Rawlings Trio
Apr. 4 7:30 p.m. Faculty Recital
Apr. 7 3:00 p.m. Department Recital

Sports

All games listed are home games, except tournaments.

Jan. 13 6:00 p.m. WBB vs. Dakota Wesleyan
Jan. 20 8:00 p.m. MBB vs. Dakota Wesleyan
Jan. 20 6:00 p.m. WBB vs. Dakota State
Jan. 22 8:00 p.m. MBB vs. Dakota State
Jan. 22 9:00 a.m. Track, Dordt Invitational
Jan. 26 6:00 p.m. WBB vs. University of Sioux Falls
Jan. 26 8:00 p.m. MBB vs. University of Sioux Falls
Jan. 27 7:00 p.m. WBB vs. Briar Cliff
Feb. 4 6:00 p.m. WBB vs. South Dakota Tech
Feb. 5 8:00 p.m. MBB vs. Black Hills State
Feb. 5 8:00 p.m. MBB vs. Black Hills State
Feb. 12 TBA
Feb. 12 1:00 p.m. WBB vs. Mount Marty
Feb. 12 3:00 p.m. MBB vs. Mount Marty
Feb. 17 5:00 p.m. JVBB vs. Alumni
Feb. 19 4:00 p.m. Track, Fast Chance meet
Feb. 19 6:00 p.m. WBB vs. Huron
Feb. 19 8:00 p.m. MBB vs. Huron
Feb. 26 9:30 a.m. Track, SDIC Conference Meet
Feb. 26-29 WBB & MBB SDIC playoffs
Mar. 8-14 TBA
Sioux City, Iowa
Mar. 13-18 MBB NAIA National Tournament, Point Lookout, Missouri
Mar. 13-18 Track Spring Trip
Mar. 13-18 BSB, Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic, Fort Myers, Florida
Mar. 24, 25 SB Hasting Tournament, TBA
Mar. 27 5:00 p.m. Dordt High School Invitational Track Meet
Mar. 29 2:00 p.m. BSB vs. Buena Vista
Mar. 29 4:00 p.m. SB vs. Dakota Wesleyan
Mar. 30 4:00 p.m. BSB vs. Huron
Mar. 31, Apr. 1 SB, Central College Tournaent,
Apr. 6 4:00 p.m. SB vs. Huron
Apr. 7, 8 SB, Northwest Iowa Classic
Apr. 8 9:00 a.m. Track, Dordt Invitational
1:00 p.m. BSB vs. Dakota State
2:00 p.m. WBB vs. Buena Vista

the VOICE

DORDT COLLEGE

WINTER 2000
VOLUME 45 NUMBER 2



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sells Chicago
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Business students
join Kaizen
teams at
Vermeer

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